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Audubon Field Notes

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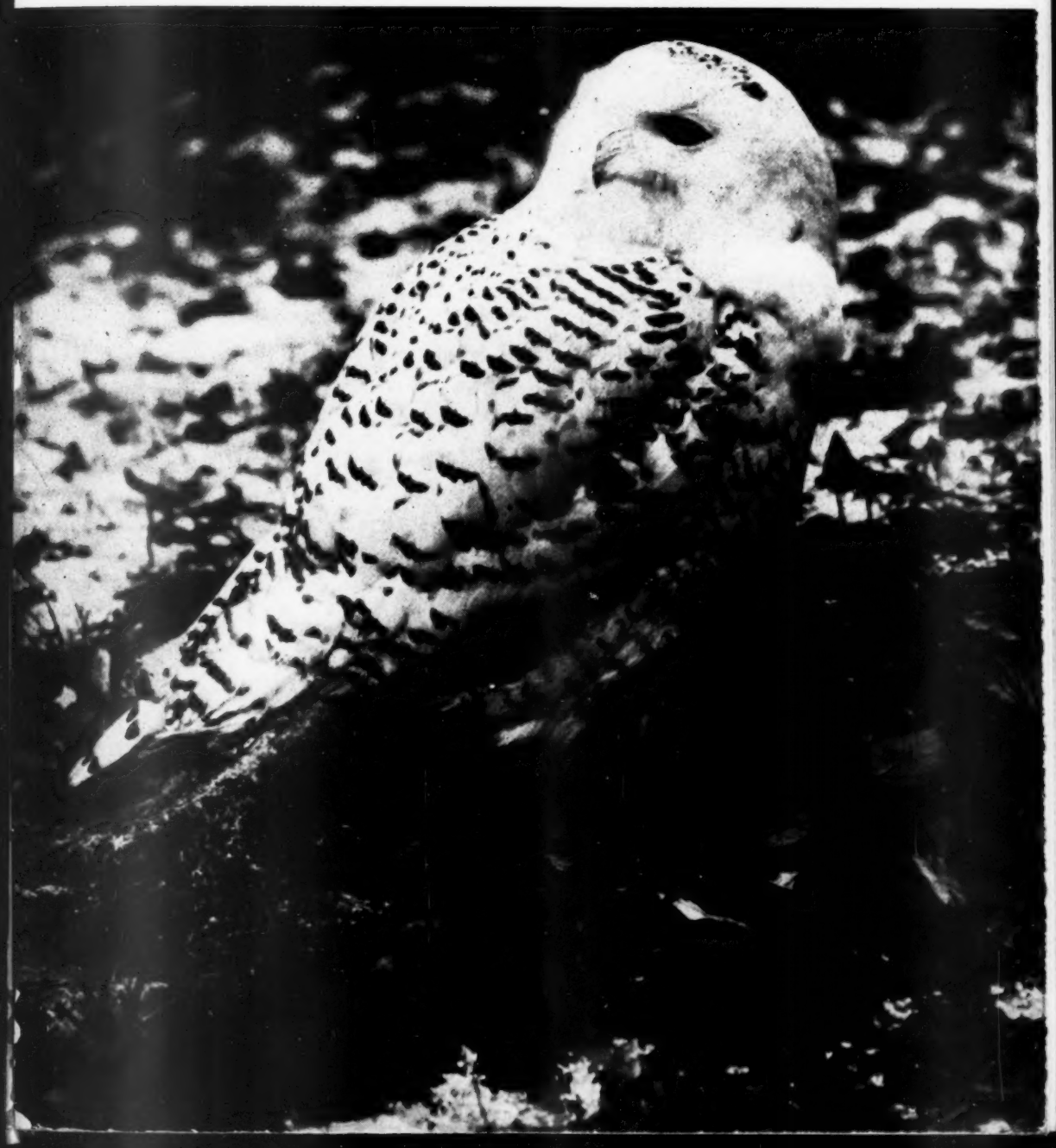

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AUDUBON FIELD NOTES

A bimonthly magazine devoted to the results of bird watching

Published by the National Audubon Society in Collaboration with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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Cover photograph of Snowy Owl by Dr. John B. May

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THE CHANGING SEASONS

A Summary of the Fall Migration

Ludlow Griscom

United States weather was sufficiently variable during the past autumn so as to make any general summary impracticable. Drought conditions continued their effect on birds in the Middle Pacific Coast Region, namely a general scarcity of land birds, the early departure of the summer residents, the late arrival of the winter residents, and the continued decrease of the permanent residents. In southern California excellent rains began in late fall, from which beneficial results may be expected later. There was considerable warm, dry weather in the Rockies, the Southwest and the Great Plains. Severe drought and abnormal mildness characterized most of the Northeast and the adjacent interior states. Heavy rains were mostly restricted to the southern tier of states. There was a hurricane in Florida and Georgia bringing tropical stragglers and blowing sea birds inland, and another on October 3-4 in coastal Texas with similar results.

In the Northeast, ideal conditions prevailed during late August and September; one cool front after another produced eight marked waves of birds, which were noted in greater variety and abundance than ever before. Mr. Weston reports ideal conditions near Pensacola in mid-September; heavy rains caused a damming up of the migrants on the coast, waiting for good weather to launch out over the Gulf. Professor Williams submits an interesting table, showing the close correlation between cool fronts and the arrival of migrants in coastal Texas. Dates for a marked winter freeze-up occurred as follows: New Brunswick and southern Ontario, Nov. 25; Boston, Dec. 1-8; Cape Cod, *none;* southern Rockies, Dec. 10.

Loons and Cormorants.—Very fine flights in the North Atlantic States.

Gannets and Pelicans.—The Gannet population in the North Atlantic must have nearly doubled in the last ten years. The White Pelican continues to increase, and stragglers are reported this fall from Tennessee and southern New Jersey.

Southern Herons.—A fair flight only to the North Atlantic States, but an excellent one in the interior, particularly in Wisconsin and Minnesota. A Louisiana Heron reached Rhode Island, and a Reddish Egret was apparently competently identified in Missouri. This group of birds is lingering northward later and later every fall.

Geese.—Good to very fine flights of every species practically throughout the continent. As regards the Canada Goose, several areas remark on the large number of birds that were thin and in poor condition; perhaps malnutrition is the cause, which suggests that the great number may partially evaporate by next June. Brant on the Atlantic Coast continue to increase; it is good to hear of a very large concentration in New Jersey. The Greater Snow Goose continues its steady increase; this year's gathering at Cap Tourmente, P.Q., showed considerable improvement, and some are now reported every spring and fall in the North Atlantic States. The Lesser Snow and Blue Geese continue their eastward spread; this year large mixed flocks occurred in West Virginia, and solid flocks of Blue Geese alighted near Rochester, N. Y. The Blue Goose was reported on the Atlantic seaboard from New Hampshire to Georgia and Florida, with a straggler in New Mexico.

Freshwater Ducks.—An excellent flight almost throughout. Marked gains for the Wood Duck in most northern states. A fine concentration of 100,000 Blue-winged Teal in western Louisiana. A fall gathering of 15,000 Black Ducks on the Parker River Refuge is the best count in Massachusetts to-date. Teal and Pintail in excellent numbers in the Northeast.

Other Ducks.—The Buffle-head continues a rapid increase in the Northeast. No great prosperty in the ducks of the genus *Aythya* is reported anywhere. The Ruddy Duck did not repeat its flight of last year in the Northeast. Spectacular flocks of eiders and scoters were located off Cape Cod.

Birds of Prey.—No marked flight in New England, but excellent flights in the mid-Atlantic and Appalachian states and Ontario. Hawks are definitely down in the Great Plains. A Swallow-tailed Kite in Minnesota furnishes a surprising vagrant record. There are far too many Golden Eagle reports in the eastern States at unlikely places and dates.

Rails.—Drought conditions make it difficult to assess the lack of records in many parts of the country. Excellent numbers of Soras are reported in the few good localities visited by experienced observers. The Coot did not repeat last year's invasion of the Northeast. There were two records of the Clapper Rail on Cape Cod.

Shorebirds.—A good flight on the whole of most species, but no mention is made of any Woodcock flight. Only one area reports a slight increase in Wilson's Snipe, and many comment on its scarcity. In the last few years I have noted a steady, though very slight increase in reports of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, which is finally staging a slight and badly needed increase. An Avocet population is coming back in the East, just as the Marbled Godwit has already done; a gathering of up to 100 in South Carolina, another of 75 in Louisiana.

Terns.—An excellent flight in the Northeast after a successful nesting season. The late Mr. Pangburn presented some interesting figures to show a marked increase of Cabot's Tern on the east coast of Florida.

Dovekie.—Cape Cod was deluged with these little auks after a northeast blow on Nov. 12.

Snowy Owl.—Marked flight south to Virginia, Kentucky, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

Passerine Birds.—The best flight of Western Kingbirds on the Atlantic seaboard from Massachusetts to Virginia and Florida. Red-breasted Nuthatches in numbers south to Georgia, Louisiana and Texas. A marked Northern Shrike year in New England and Ontario. A flood of Cape May Warblers in the eastern states, and secondarily exceptional numbers of Bay-breasted. A minor flight of Pine Siskins reached Georgia. Dickcissels in some numbers wandered to Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and northern New York.

Southern Vagrants Northward.—A Booby off Long Island, N. Y.; a Glossy Ibis in Ohio; a Black Vulture in Ontario; Prothonotary and Kentucky Warblers in the Connecticut Valley, Mass.; an adult male Lark Bunting on Cape Cod; a Painted Bunting in New York.

Western Vagrants Eastward.—Western Grebe in eastern Ohio; Am. Magpie in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Eastern Vagrants Westward.—Eastern Kingbird, Sprague's Pipit, Black and White, and Magnolia Warblers in the Southwest; Tennessee Warbler in Idaho; Am. Redstart in California.

Old World Species.—Barnacle Goose in North Carolina; a European Teal near Toronto; and Wheatears at Buffalo and White Plains, N. Y.

The most extraordinary record is easily a Vermilion Flycatcher captured near Toronto, which fairly matches the Painted Redstart that turned up in Massachusetts two years ago.

REGION REPORTS

Fall Migration

August 16 to November 30, 1949

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION.—The first break in the intense heat was a cool wave on Aug. 20-21, bringing a marked flight of land bird migrants. September was an ideal month for the ornithologist; one cool spell after another came in rapid succession, and there were no less than eight great waves of birds. Never in history have birds of all kinds been so numerous both in variety of species and numbers of individuals, and record counts toppled almost weekly in those localities where competent and experienced groups of observers took the field. Over the regular route in Essex County, Mass., my party noted 122 species on Sept. 7 and 119 on Sept. 21. Allen Morgan sent me a detailed report of the unprecedented migration he and Richard Stackpole encountered in the Sudbury Valley, ordinarily a dead and lifeless area in early fall. Equally remarkable were the birds on outer Cape Cod, where so many of the smaller land birds are rare vagrants. Some 50 people on the Audubon Society camp-out scoured the area Sept. 9-12, recording 162 species of birds.

Birds were still exceptionally abundant on Oct. 1 and 2, but that ended the first phase of the fall migration. The balance of the month was exceptionally mild with few sharp weather contrasts, and ornithologically the results were dull and uneventful. November was also relatively mild, resulting in the usual number of late stragglers. A sharp cold wave from Nov. 27 on virtually terminated the fall migration except for certain sea fowl. The rainfall in September and November was about normal near Boston. Otherwise, drought reigned with heat as the chief feature of the meteorological year, and drought conditions became marked northward and eastward, where rain had been a little more normal during the summer.

Loons, Cormorants and Herons.—The Red-throated Loon and Double-crested Cormorant had an impressive and long continued migration. A Louisiana Heron, Sept. 3, in Rhode Island was the first State record (Kraus, Roch).

Ducks.—There was a very early and heavy flight of this group of birds with a continued increase of teal and Pintail. A tremendous tide in mid-November made counting the Black Ducks in the Plum Island Marshes a simpler task than usual, and we obtained the record score of 15,000. The Higginbothams and other members of the South Shore Club got up to 700 Wood Ducks roosting in the South Hanson cedar swamp. On the whole, pond ducks were in excellent numbers. Buffle-head continued their increase, and some large flocks of Red-breasted Mergansers were noted. A cruise in late November on the shoals east of Monomoy Point produced at least half a million sea ducks, mostly Common Eiders; the most spectacular concentration was on Bearse's Shoal, relatively birdless since 1942.

Pelagic Birds.—The great invasion of shearwaters reported in August peetered out rapidly and September was colorless. Wilson's Petrel disappeared remarkably early. The flight of jaegers was poor and featureless. Northern Phalaropes were abundant from Aug. 10 to Sept. 7, at the latter period in large flocks easily visible from the mainland in calm, clear weather, where the species is normally casual.

Rails.—Drought made the lack of observation inconclusive. There was a fine gathering of Soras in the one good rice marsh near Boston. The number of Coot was normal, the great flight of last year not repeated.

Shorebirds.—There was no flight of Woodcock in eastern Massachusetts. Of Snipe, practically none were reported. The group as a whole had a fair year and stragglers remained very late. The Hudsonian Godwit held its numbers of recent years, and the Buff-breasted Sandpiper is apparently establishing a trend of being reported every fall. The flight of Red-backed Sandpipers was the heaviest ever known, the number of Baird's Sandpipers was most exceptional, and the Masons found a Curlew Sandpiper at Nauset, Sept. 5.

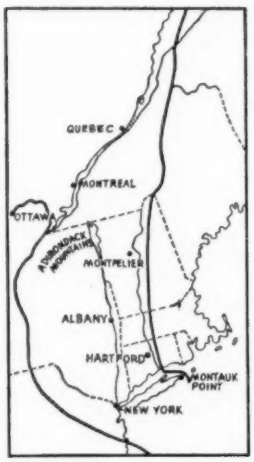
Terns.—There was a very heavy flight on Cape Cod after a fine breeding season. Over 2500 Roseates on Sept. 4. Another great flight of Blacks, 100-300 per trip in early September. There were several Caspian Terns, but fewer Forster's than usual. There was an adult Sooty Tern at North Beach, Cape Cod, with 2 Skimmers on Sept. 11 (Eliot and others).

Dovekie.—Cape Cod was deluged with these little auks after a mild northeast blow on Nov. 12. They were flying south just outside the surf at the rate of 100 per 15 minutes, and many were bobbing around in the water. They were still abundant at the end of the month. Relatively few entered the inside waters.

Snowy Owl.—This Arctic breeder began arriving about Nov. 10. Up to the 30th I had heard of eight different birds in Rhode Island.

Land Birds.—Exceptional numbers of the Western Kingbird, a great flight of Olive-backed and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, and an astonishing number of Migrant Shrikes. Last summer's breeding bird censuses of Aldrich and Stewart in northern Maine help explain the great number of Tennessee, Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers. There was a positive flight of Dickcissels; the first one on Sept. 4 on Cape Cod, and 10 there on Sept. 10; the bird was also reported from Essex County, Mass., and there were 7 in Rhode Island, as David Emerson kindly informs me. The following occurrences are of particular note: Summer Tanager, Nauset, Cape Cod, Sept. 17 (Allen Morgan); Lark Bunting, adult male in winter plumage at Nauset on Sept. 3, found by C. Russell Mason, shown to and beautifully seen by four of us; Lark Sparrows, 1 at Bonnet Shores, R. I., Aug. 21 (Mr. & Mrs. Nash), 2 together at Eastham, Sept. 12 (Mason and others).—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge 38, Mass.*

HUDSON-ST. LAWRENCE REGION.—The outstanding feature of the weather summary was the severe drought throughout the breeding season that extended into the early migration period; this drought was particularly severe in the southern section. After late August the rainfall became normal but the early deficiency was not overcome. Many fresh water marshes were much reduced in area or became dry. In many cases the water level of lakes and reservoirs was the lowest remembered. The large expanses of mud flat and sand bar exposed formed new and inviting feeding grounds for shorebirds. This condition probably accounts for the unusually interesting inland migration of these birds this fall. The effect of the drought on fresh water marshes gives a distorted though perhaps temporary picture of the birdlife of this habitat. As the marshes dried the usual marsh birds left their accustomed haunts and concentrated in spots where conditions were more favorable causing a marked increase in numbers at these points. In view of these facts the population studies of the marsh birds may not be reliable. The conditions in the breeding areas of the passerine birds must have been satisfactory; for the fall migration, which started early, was very heavy and persisted to new late dates.



Pelagic birds.—On Sept. 4 a large flight of sea birds occurred off southern Long Island. From Moriches a swirling mass of gulls and terns could be seen with numerous shearwaters and jaegers among them. Several Sooty Shearwaters were identified. On Oct. 16 there was a large flight of shearwaters and gannets off Montauk, L. I. The shearwaters were mostly Cory's with a few Greater (Darrow). Another well-marked flight of shearwaters and jaegers passed Montauk on Oct. 29. A White-bellied Booby was seen off Moriches, Long Island, Sept. 4 (Mayer, Rose).

Herons.—Southern herons were present in normal numbers but at no time did these numbers approach those of the invasion of 1948. The largest concentration reported was at Jones Beach, L. I., on Sept. 4, when 280 American and 37 Snowy Egrets were counted (Bull). American Egrets

were still present at Westport, Conn., on Oct. 26 (Mrs. Long). At Holland, Mass., a Great Blue Heron thought to be the southeastern breeding subspecies (Ward's) was found on Aug. 30 and was photographed in color by J. E. Hyde (Eliot).

Geese and Brant.—Canada Geese started migration early, flocks being reported on the west side of the Champlain Valley, N. Y., and from eastern Lake Ontario in the first week of September (Chase). Inland reports were more numerous after Oct. 1. From Oct. 15 to 25 many large flocks passed over Hamburg, N. J. (Nixdorf). Reports indicate a heavy flight in the interior but the coastwise flight was low. Reports of Brant far from the coast were numerous. The earliest record was of 3 at Cooperstown, N. Y., on Oct. 31 (Hill). This was followed by a report from Alexandria Bay, N Y., where over 1,000 passed in small flocks on Nov. 1 (Mrs. Common). During the same week this flight continued down the eastern shore of Lake Ontario. Over Augusta, N. J., a flock of 150 was seen on Nov. 6 (Urner Club). Other inland reports were from Bennington, Vt., Nov. 6 (Ross), Pittsfield, Mass., Nov. 13 (Eliot), and Boonton, N. J., Nov. 13 (Urner Club). Reports of Brant on the coast were not impressive. Snow Geese must have had an exceptionally successful breeding season. Migrating birds first arrived near St. Joachim, Quebec, on Sept. 7 and the flock continued to build up until on Oct. 10 the number, as estimated by Mr. Pruneau, warden of the Cap Tourmente Hunting and Fishing Club, was 60,000. Many were immatures. There was a considerable shifting of parts of the flock within an area of about 25 miles along the river, (Cayouette). In the central Adirondacks a Snow Goose dropped out of a flock and fed on a lawn in the vicinity of Lake Placid from Oct. 24 to 29 (Meade). In the entire flock of Snows at Cap Tourmente only 6 Blue Geese were seen (Cayoutte). The outstanding report of Blue Geese was a flock of 75 seen by Mr. Hathaway, warden at the State Game Refuge, Milton, Vt., on Oct. 8. Other reports of Blue Geese were 2 immatures at Compo Beach, Conn., Oct. 26 (Mrs. Long) and still at the same location Oct. 29 (Saunders), an immature at Lake Hopatcong, N. J., Oct. 30 (J. L. Edwards) and at Jones Beach, L. I., Nov. 5 (Elliott, Teale).

Ducks.—On the eastern nesting grounds the breeding season of many of our ducks started 2 or 3 weeks early Ducklings matured earlier and flocks assembled and began to move south at least two weeks before the usual date. Gadwall were well distributed, 15 at Piermont, N. Y., Oct. 9 (Collins), and other reports from western Massachusetts and Connecticut during the period, Aug. 6 to Nov. 9. Baldpate were common in the Connecticut River Valley and numerous in northern New Jersey. Pintail numbers were higher in the Connecticut Valley. Normally an unusual migrant in western Vermont, Pintails passed through in numbers. Green-winged Teal were reported as almost abundant in many places. More Shovellers than usual, 15 at Boonton, N. J., Oct. 22 (Sharp); many other records from fresh water ponds in western Massachusetts, eastern New York and northern New Jersey. Wood Ducks showed a general increase as migrants at many points but were down at Cooperstown, N. Y. Most species of diving ducks were still below normal numbers, except the Ruddy which was unusually numerous.

Hawks.—Two hitherto unrecorded hawk flyways were investigated, one in the Adirondacks where a large flight of Buteos was watched on Sept. 9, the other south and east of Cooperstown. In the Green Mts., Vt., the hawk flight was better than usual; the 3 Buteos predominated. On Long Island and in northern New Jersey the flight was poor. Turkey Vultures were unusually numerous in southwestern Connecticut (Mrs. Long), and there were 2 at Northampton, Mass., in early November (Eliot). Very few Goshawks were seen. Three Golden Eagles, one at Tenafly, N. J., Oct. 8 (Mayr), another at Blairstown, N. J., Oct. 22 (J. L. Edwards and others), a third at Bennington, Vt., Nov. 3 (Ross).

Grouse.—An increase in Ruffed Grouse was rather generally reported in the Adirondacks, the Green Mts., and the Connecticut River Valley. More Spruce Grouse are now seen in the Adirondacks than in years past (Meade).

Rails.—The present status of these birds is somewhat obscured by the effect of drought conditions on the normal fresh water habitat but reports from practically every section indicate decreases. At Northampton, Mass., they have declined phenomenally since 1930 (Eliot); at Watertown, N. Y., rails were very scarce this year (Mrs. Common). At Fairfield, Conn., Clappers were at a low ebb in 1948 but showed a slight come-back this year (Saunders). On Long Island a decrease was noted and dead Soras and Florida Gallinules were picked up on the marshes (Elliott). The latter condition may have been due to intense mosquito control operations. The overall picture of the rail situation is not good.

Shorebirds.—On Long Island all shorebirds made a poor showing and practically every species was down in numbers. Opposed to this are reports of greatly increased flights inland where, for reasons mentioned above, conditions were particularly favorable. Inland reports of Golden Plover were rather frequent. The Black-bellied Plover, a rare migrant in Vermont, was noted on several occasions near Burlington; 24 on Oct. 16 (Miss Ball). Woodcock and Wilson's Snipe were rare throughout the Region. The first Vermont record of **Hudsonian Curlew** was established at Burlington, Sept. 10 (Marion Smith, Dr. Kingsbury). Another new Vermont record was a **Stilt Sandpiper** at Burlington, Sept. 4 (Misses Smith

and Ball). At Longmeadow, Mass., 2 Stilt Sandpipers were seen on Aug. 22 (R. D. Edwards). Last spring the first Vermont record for the Dowitcher was established. This fall 7 were seen on Aug. 28 at the site of last year's record, Swanton (Marion Smith). A Hudsonian Godwit was at Hadley, Mass., Oct. 9 to 19 (Smart) and one at Boonton, N. J., Oct. 23 to Nov. 13 (Urner Club). On Oct. 30, 2 of these birds were present at the latter place (Frohling). Further west at Lake Otsego, N. Y., a very heavy shorebird migration was noted, 20 species in all, and many rare visitors inland (Hill).

Gulls and Terns.—A Franklin's Gull was recorded from Cooperstown on Oct. 18 (Hill). A Gull-billed Tern appeared at Jones Beach, Aug. 6 (Mayer, Rose).

Doves.—The fact that the Mourning Dove is extending its breeding range northward is probably the reason for reports of increases along the northern edge of its accepted range. South of this belt the reports, on the average, show a decrease; only 60% of the average of the last 10 years at Fairfield, Conn., about the same decrease from the mean of the reports from northern New Jersey.

Snowy Owl.—There is a record of 1 Snowy Owl at Adams Center, N. Y., Nov. 13 (S. W. Smith).

Land Birds.—A Wheatear was observed at the bird bath of Mrs. H. E. Dickenson of White Plains on Nov. 8. An early Northern Shrike was found at Northampton, Nov. 8 (Eliot), another at Gouverneur, N. Y., Nov. 10 (Belknap). The warbler flight started early and was heavy except around Watertown. All other sections reported unusual abundance of the rarer species, such as Orange-crowned, Tennessee, Cape May and Bay-breasted. A late Yellow Warbler was seen at Lenox, Mass., on Sept. 28 (Junea W. Kelly). A female Prothonotary Warbler was seen Oct. 20, at Northampton (Eliot), and a Kentucky Warbler on Sept. 21 (Eliot). A Blue Grosbeak was at Gilgo, L. I., Oct. 30 (Bull and others) and a few wandering Dickcissels were reported. During the summer, Evening Grosbeaks patronized feeding stations at Trudeau, N. Y., bringing young with them; one pair was accompanied by an immature Brown-headed Cowbird. The Evening Grosbeaks disappeared about mid-August; none were seen until Nov. 9 when they returned in numbers. Other reports of this species are Sussex Co., N. J., 9 on Nov. 6 (Urner Club), and Northampton, Oct. 15, more numerous after Nov. 1. The first redpolls were reported at Quebec, Oct. 29 (Cayouette), a flock of 50 was seen at Cooperstown in first week of November (Hill). Flocks including both crossbills were at Trudeau, Nov. 10. The first Ipswich Sparrow on Long Island was seen at Jones Beach, Nov. 12 (Elliott). The flight of Fox Sparrows was heavy, particularly in Vermont (Smith). A Painted Bunting was observed in Central Park, New York City, Oct. 24 (Carleton.)—CHARLES K. NICHOLS, *American Museum of Natural History, New York 24, N. Y.*

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION.—The season was unusually mild and rather dry. Migration in October was somewhat retarded. Winter birds were late in arriving in numbers.

Shearwaters and Pelicans.—Reimann saw a Cory's Shearwater at Mantoloking, N. J., on Oct. 23. A White Pelican, first found at Beach Haven Inlet, N. J., on Aug. 15, by Woolfinder and Seider, was later seen by numerous observers.

Herons.—Three Am. Bitterns were seen at Elliott Is., Md., as late as Nov. 29 (Stewart). There were very few late records of the Am. Egret. Grey saw a Snowy Egret at Back Bay, Va., Nov. 11. Louisiana Herons increased at Stone Harbor, N. J., in late summer, with a high count of 14 on Sept. 3 (Wright).

Geese and Ducks.—There was a fine flight of Canada Geese through New Jersey, with a high count of 1200 in Cape May Co., Oct. 2, by Wright; and a major flight at Washington on Oct. 24. Scott counted 2500 at Curle's Neck, Va., on Nov. 23. In spite of the scarcity of eel grass, Brant appeared in large numbers, with perhaps 100,000 in the New Jersey sounds by Nov. 30. They arrived at Ocean City, Md., in mid-October, and were moving in large flocks on Oct. 25. Broun saw 260 in one group at Hawk Mountain on Nov. 4. Scott and Sydnor again reported Snow and Blue Geese at Curle's Neck. Robbins and Low saw a flock of 28 Snow Geese, with one immature Blue, flying over the Pocomoke River at Willards, Md., on Nov. 12. Rafts of ducks appeared in a two-mile stretch of the Delaware River below Philadelphia in the second week of November, with an estimate of 25,000 Blacks, 20,000 Pintails, and 3000 Ruddies. Northwood saw a female King Eider at Cape May for 3 weeks following Oct. 3.

Birds of Prey.—The total hawk count at Hawk Mountain this fall was 17,145. There was a terrific slaughter of hawks by gunners at Cape May and at various Blue Ridge points in Pennsylvania. George Kelly counted over 2500 hawks in the flight across Chesapeake Bay at Cove Point, Md., between Sept. 21 and Oct. 21, Broad-wings (2355) being the most common. McLaughlin counted

750 Broad-wings passing over Bombay Hook on Sept. 24. There were good flights at Cape May, with a high count of 100 Pigeon Hawks on Sept. 24 (Northwood). Ed Frey reported a Gyrfalcon in white plumage at Harrisburg, Pa., on Nov. 28. A Snowy Owl was seen by Brackbill in Baltimore, Nov. 21, and another at Seneca, Md., on Nov. 27 by Alva Nye. A Long-eared Owl was recorded in Bedford Co., Va., on Dec. 4, by Donald Shipley. Short-eared Owls were more common than usual in the southern part of the region. Stewart and Clark Webster saw a very early individual at Elliott Is., Md., on Oct. 22; and on Nov. 20 Alva Nye recorded a peak of more than 75 in a *Microtus*-infested field at Leesburg, Va. An early Saw-whet Owl was found dead at Philadelphia on Oct. 13 (Ulmer), and another at Cape May Court House, Nov. 10 (Wright).

Rails and Gallinules.—A Black Rail was carefully observed at Seaford Marsh, near Yorktown, Va., Aug. 21, by Beasley, Lawless, Minor and Scott. A Florida Gallinule, seen on June 3 and heard several times later at Timber Lake, Lynchburg, Va., by Ruskin Freer, was possibly breeding.

Plovers.—The shorebird migration was a good one, with many late stragglers, more than the ordinary number of rarer species, and an unusually large and varied flight at inland points. Low water in reservoirs in the northern part of the region made muddy areas attractive to these birds. An immature Piping Plover, Nov. 25, at Seaford Marsh, Va., on the western side of the bay, is very unusual (Grey, Scott, Stevens). One seen at the National Airport, Sept. 3, by Donnelly, was the third record in the District of Columbia area. Late downy Piping Plovers were banded at Assateague Island, Md., and Chincoteague Refuge, Va., by Buckalew, Robbins, and Jerram Brown, on July 23. Edwards saw 3 Wilson's Plovers at Little Beach Island, N. J., July 23. There were frequent records of 1 or more Golden Plovers in the Philadelphia area, with a high count of 52 on Oct. 2 at Tinicum (Cutler, Finkel). Donnelly saw 1 at National Airport, Washington, Sept. 15.

Snipe and Sandpipers.—Wilson's Snipe records were few in the Philadelphia area, 3 being seen at Salem, N. J., on Aug. 27 by Regensburg. A Spotted Sandpiper on Nov. 13 at Blackwater Refuge (Md. Ornithological Soc.) is the latest Maryland record. Northwood found a Purple Sandpiper at Cape May, Oct. 4. A record of 30 White-rumped Sandpipers at Back Bay, Nov. 3 (Grey), is unusual both for numbers and date; and 1 at West Ocean City on Nov. 12 (Md. O. Soc.) is the latest Maryland date. Lyle saw 4 Red-backed Sandpipers at Danville, Va., Oct. 28. Stilt Sandpipers occurred regularly throughout the region, with a high count of 14 at Cape May on Aug. 28 (Middleton) and of 19 at Chincoteague on July 23 (Robbins, J. Brown). Scott collected 2 at Hopewell, Va., Oct. 2; and McKnight and Willison made three records at Four Mile Run, Va., Oct. 1 (1), 2 (4) and 9 (1). New Jersey had frequent records of Marbled Godwits, with a count of about 22 at Tuckerton on Sept. 17 (Sargent). A Hudsonian Godwit was found at Tinicum, Philadelphia, on Sept. 17 (Cutler, Finkel), and seen at intervals until Oct. 13. Hake and Buckalew saw 2 Hudsonian and 5 Marbled Godwits at Chincoteague on Aug. 10. Coman reported 2 Ruffs at Townsend's Inlet, N. J., Aug. 13.

Avocets and Phalaropes.—An Avocet, found by Thomas at Churchville, Pa., on Sept. 6, remained to the 30th; and another was seen at Bombay Hook, Del., on Sept. 23 (Tanner). A Wilson's Phalarope was seen at Stone Harbor on Aug. 28 (McLaughlin). One collected by Buckalew at Assateague Is., Aug. 3, is the second record for Maryland, and the first specimen. A Northern Phalarope was seen at Churchville, Pa., Sept. 25 to 30 (Thomas, McNeill); and one at Cape May, Oct. 25 (Northwood).

Gulls and Terns.—Increasing numbers of Black-backed Gulls were reported along the New Jersey coast, with groups of 25 to 50. Barnes and Buckalew saw 2 very early migrants at Chincoteague on Aug. 6. Two Gull-billed Terns were identified at Sandy Point, Md., on the western shore of Chesapeake Bay on Sept. 11 by LaFleur, Beaton, and the Md. O. Soc., and were subsequently observed by Hampe. Three were seen at Ocean City and 2 at Chincoteague Causeway, Sept. 25. An exhausted immature Royal Tern was found near Manahawken, N. J., Aug. 27 (Rogers); Kelly saw a Caspian and 2 Royal Terns at Solomons, Md., on Oct. 18. Middleton saw 3 Caspians at Avalon, N. J., Aug. 28, and Stewart and Duvall counted 11 at Ocean City, Md., as late as Oct. 25.

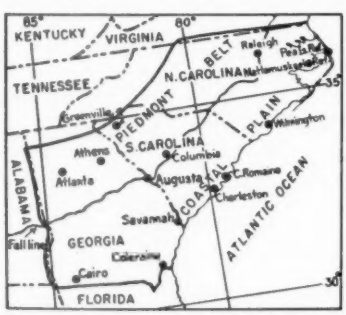
Woodpeckers to Thrushes.—A large flight of Flickers occurred at Barnegat City, N. J., on Sept. 25 (Weyl). An immature Red-headed Woodpecker was seen by Northwood at Cape May, Oct. 16. Two Western Kingbirds were seen at Back Bay by Perkins in the first week of November, and 1 on Nov. 11 at nearby Sandbridge by Grey. Tree Swallows reached a peak of 50,000 at Elliott Is., Md., on Oct. 22 (Stewart, Webster). This was a good flight year for Red-breasted Nuthatches. They arrived early (Sept. 1 at Patuxent) and came in large numbers. Mrs. Roberta Fletcher found a young Wood Thrush with immature mouth and short tail at Denton, Md., Oct. 13.

Warblers.—The flight of Cape May Warblers throughout the region was remarkable. Meanley saw a tremendous flight at Ocean City, Md., on Oct. 2; and Middleton counted 100 in shade trees along a street in Wenonah, N. J., on Sept. 24. The Bay-breasted was also unusually common: "spectacularly common" in Albemarle County, Va. (Stevens). A Blue-winged Warbler in the District of Columbia on Aug. 5 (Stickley) is the earliest record for the section; and 2 Black-throated

Greens at Patuxent on Aug. 21 (Robbins, Stewart) were very early. There were many late warbler records: Black-poll, Pocomoke Swamp, Willards, Nov. 12 (Robbins), latest for Maryland; Nashville, Ocean City, Nov. 6 (Meanley), latest for Maryland and first record for the Eastern Shore; Black-throated Blue, Loch Raven, Md., Oct. 15 (Kolb), quite late; Chestnut-sided, Hatton, Va., Oct. 18 (Stevens), very late; Yellow-breasted Chat, Sept. 24 (Cape Charles), Oct. 1 (Fort Belvoir, Abbott); Hooded, Woodside, Md., Oct. 2 (Fales), very late. An Orange-crowned Warbler, collected at Patuxent Refuge, Oct. 22 (Robbins), is a first record for the Maryland coastal plain. One "seen at 15 feet for 5 minutes" at Fort Belvoir on Sept. 17 (Abbott) is very early.

Orioles and Sparrows.—A Baltimore Oriole at Pocomoke Swamp, Nov. 12 (Robbins, and Md. O. Soc.), is the latest date for Maryland. A Dickcissel was observed at Cape May on Sept. 4 (Gilkyson). In the Hawk Mountain flight, Evening Grosbeaks were noted on Nov. 7, 9, 10, and 14; and a flock of 8 flew over Patuxent Refuge on Nov. 19 (Robbins). On July 4, J. W. Taylor again saw several Lark Sparrows near Front Royal, Va. An Ipswich Sparrow at Yorktown, Va., on Nov. 25 (Grey, Stevens) is very unusual. Lyle saw a White-crowned Sparrow at Danville, Va., Oct. 28, which is unusual east of the mountains.—JULIAN K. POTTER, 437 *Park Ave., Collingswood, N. J.*, and J. J. MURRAY, 6 *White St., Lexington, Va.*

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION.—In general, August and September were normal with respect to temperature and rainfall, October was somewhat drier while November was extremely dry approaching the all-time minimum in interior Georgia (Atlanta and Augusta). In southern Georgia, November was also cooler than normal with one cold front after another.



The fall migration began on time and was normal except for the effects produced by two unusual conditions. A tropical storm on Aug. 26-28 entered the region near Valdosta, Ga., and passed northeastward through the Coastal Plain of Georgia and both Carolinas. As a result of the storm a number of semi-tropical birds were blown into the region and some local gulls and terns were blown inland. In southwest Georgia an almost total absence of acorns and pine "mast," with a short crop of Black Gum fruit, is already exerting a profound effect on bird and mammal life. Red-headed Woodpeckers had left the area by mid-October while last year at this time (with the biggest acorn crop in years) the woods were full of them. Red-wings and other blackbirds which feed heavily on pine seeds in the cone were notably scarce while the Wild Turkeys have begun working heavily on the Chufas planted especially for them (Stoddard).

Grebes, Cormorants, Man-o'-war-birds.—Pied-billed Grebes were as numerous as last year. A flock of about 50 birds was seen on a small lake near Rome, Floyd Co., Ga., on Aug. 29 where none had been present the day before (W. W. Griffin). An immature Double-crested Cormorant near Greenville, Meriwether Co., Ga., Nov. 22, was late and unusual for this region (W.W.G.). Following the tropical storm Man-o'-war-birds were seen at several places along the coast. One was seen over Back River near Brunswick, Glynn Co., Ga., Aug. 28 (J. Oney), 2 were seen near Charleston, S. C., Aug. 28 (Mrs. Barrington); while at Wilmington, N. C., 1 was sighted, Aug. 28, 3 on Aug. 29 and 2 on Sept. 2 (Rose and Thompson).

Waterfowl.—A juvenile Whistling Swan was collected at Augusta, Ga., Nov. 21, by C. Belger, this being the second bird obtained in the area in recent years. The flight of Canada Geese was unusually heavy and the number of birds wintering in the area is greater than usual. The flight began about Oct. 20 and reached its peak at Coleraine in southeast Georgia on Nov. 3 and 4 (F. V. Hebard). A flock passed over the Atlanta, Ga. Airport, Oct. 24 (W.W.G.) and 5 flocks passed over the Piedmont Wildlife Refuge in Georgia between Oct. 25 and 27 (Ambrosen). A **Barnacle Goose** was discovered on Nov. 3 at the Gaddy Wild Goose Refuge at Ansonville, Anson Co., N. C., by Mrs. Lockhart Gaddy. The bird was still at the Refuge, Dec. 2. Since its arrival it has been watched daily and has been observed by many prominent ornithologists (E.B.C.). There are 3 previous records for the occurrence of this goose in North Carolina, all on the coast. **Blue Geese** are suddenly becoming more common in the Piedmont section of the region. The first record from the Piedmont of South Carolina was a young bird that arrived in Spartanburg Co., Nov. 5, and apparently settled for the winter (Cannon). A bird in juvenile plumage was found dead on the Piedmont Wildlife Refuge in Georgia on Nov. 13 (Ambrosen) and apparently another, also in juvenile plumage, was seen near Cartersville, Bartow Co., Ga., Nov. 25 (N. Giles); these being the second and third records from the Piedmont of Georgia.

Sandhill Crane.—A flock of 15 cranes passed over the Piedmont Wildlife Refuge, Ga., Oct. 31 (Ambrosen). This is the second record for the

refuge, a flock of 15 having been seen passing over on Nov. 1, 1942 (Fleetwood). It is interesting that this year's flock contained the same number of birds as the first and passed over only one day earlier.

Shorebirds.—A Piping Plover at Wilmington, Nov. 26, was unusually late (Holmes, etc.) while a Semipalmated Plover near Rome, Ga., Aug. 29, is the first record from the region (Griffin). Also a Dowitcher collected by Griffin near Rome is unusual for north Georgia. At Pea Island Refuge, 2 Upland Plovers were seen Aug. 22, and a single bird was seen on a neighboring island, Sept. 12 (P. W. Sturm). The Appleberrys reported a single White-rumped Sandpiper in the Wilmington area, Oct. 29, and Tomkins saw one on Aug. 14 at the same place on Hutchinson Island, Ga., where he saw over 100 in the spring. A Baird's Sandpiper was identified by C. A. Broley at Wilmington, Nov. 25. Apparently there is no other record of this bird at this late date on the North Carolina coast. C. Belger collected a Red-backed Sandpiper at Augusta, Ga., Nov. 6, the second record from the area. On Hutchinson Island, Ga., 4 Stilt Sandpipers were seen on Aug. 14, and 11 on Aug. 27 (Tomkins). From the Georgetown, S. C., area Thomas Yarkey reported 20 Marbled Godwits on Nov. 8, a single Avocet the same day and approximately 100 Avocets by the end of November. On Sept. 4 a single Marbled Godwit was seen along the Inland Waterway off Jekyl Island, Ga. (J.F.D., etc.). A **Red Phalarope** was seen at Fontana Dam at the southwestern edge of the Great Smoky Mountains Nat'l Park, N. C., Oct. 2. The bird, which was swimming a few hundred yards from the boat dock, permitted 4 boat loads of the Carolina Bird Club to circle around it so that some 50 birders were within 25 feet of it (B.R.C., etc.).

Gulls and Terns.—Following the August hurricane, 3 Herring Gulls, 12-15 Bonaparte's Gulls, about 25 Common Terns, 3 or 4 Forster's Terns and a single **Noddy Tern** were seen at a small lake near Milledgeville, Baldwin Co., Ga., Aug. 28 (T. M. Hall). This is the first report of the Noddy Tern in Georgia. At Charleston, S. C., a single Noddy Tern was reported on Aug. 28, and several Sooty Terns from Aug. 28 to Sept. 4 (S. C. Bird Life). A Cabot's Tern was collected by Sciple on St. Andrews Spit, Glynn Co., Ga., Sept. 4, this being the third record for the state.

Doves and Cuckoos.—Although there are no figures for comparison, reports from observers and hunters indicate that the wintering population of Mourning Doves in the region is somewhat smaller than last year. At Macon, Ga., where they were unknown 15 years ago, Ground Doves have become common. A Ground Dove collected Sept. 3 by Parks at Atlanta, where they are not known to breed, contained a well-formed egg. Pairs and groups of 6 and 8 Ground Doves were gathering along the Cooper River near Charleston, Sept. 16. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo collected at Atlanta, Oct. 23, was late (Griffin).

Larks.—Five Horned Larks, one of which was collected, seen at the airport at Rome, Ga., Aug. 28 and 29, probably bred there or nearby (Griffin).

Nuthatches.—A Red-breasted Nuthatch at Atlanta, Sept. 24 (Parks) and 1 at Columbia, Oct. 1 (Mrs. Faver) were early, while a bird at Macon, Ga., Oct. 22, was unusual (Ed. Farrer).

Thrushes.—The thrushes seem to have had a very successful breeding season. A wave of Wood Thrushes was noted at Augusta, Oct. 12, when the swamps were alive with them (J.F.D.). Gray-cheeked Thrushes were far more common than usual. Generally this species occurs in fall in about the same numbers as the Olive-backed Thrush, but this year outnumbered the latter about 2 to 1 in the Atlanta area. The species was first recorded early at Atlanta, Sept. 17 (Parks) and last seen on Oct. 23 (Griffin). On Oct. 16 about 30 birds were seen in a Black Gum area in the Flint River swamp near Atlanta by Griffin.

Vireos and Warblers.—The Yellow-throated Vireo on Oct. 20, and the Solitary on Nov. 28, both in the Columbia area, were late (Mrs. Faver). A Red-eyed Vireo was noted in Raleigh, Oct. 24 (Overing). The warbler migration was about normal although at some points it was reported very good while at others it was poor. A very good find was a **Kirtland's Warbler** in the Columbia area on Oct. 14 (Mrs. Faver). This is the fourth fall record for this warbler in South Carolina. A flight of Kentucky (30 seen) and Canada Warblers (15 seen) occurred near Rome, Ga., Aug. 21 (Griffin). At Atlanta a Canada Warbler on Aug. 6 is the earliest record, while a Black-throated Green Warbler on Oct. 30 is a new late record (Parks). Two Cape May Warblers and a Tennessee Warbler observed on the G. O. S. field trip at Macon, Oct. 9, are rather unusual for the fall migration there. Stoddard collected a Worm-eating Warbler on Sept. 11 and a Bay-breasted Warbler on Oct. 20 in Grady Co., Ga., where both are rare in migration.

Blackbirds.—Two Brewer's Blackbirds were seen on the airport at Macon, Nov. 25 (J.F.D.) and 15 were observed near Atlanta on Nov. 27 (Griffin).

Finches.—The wintering finches arrived a little late and were slow to build up to normal numbers. Ten Pine Siskins, 1 of which was collected, were observed near Atlanta, Nov. 27 (Griffin). Purple Finches have been reported from throughout the region, having reached Grady Co., Ga., by Nov. 24. Contrary to most species, the Slate-colored Junco was recorded the earliest ever, Oct. 27, in Grady Co. (Stoddard). Painted Buntings at Wilmington as late as Oct. 24 give hope of extended winter range; some were seen at Charleston during January, 1949.—J. FRED DENTON, 1510

Pendleton Rd., Augusta, Ga., and B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C.*

FLORIDA REGION.—Northern and Central Florida experienced an unusually cool November, with frost at Jacksonville on the 19th. Daytona Beach reported the coolest November on record. Rainfall was exceptionally heavy in August due largely to the hurricane of Aug. 27. Tampa had 11.12 inches above normal, the wettest in weather bureau history, and Jacksonville 5.7 above the average. This was followed by a warm and dry October. Tampa had less than half the normal rainfall. In the southern part of the region, usual seasonal conditions prevailed, except for an early cool spell on Nov. 6.

Pelicans.—At Melbourne, Brown Pelicans began to arrive in numbers, Nov. 5. Man-o'-war birds were seen on the 5th, 14th, and 24th (Ford).

Herons and Ibises.—An increased number of herons, especially egrets were noted. About 100 Am. Egrets and 40 Little Blue Herons were seen on the St. John's Marshes, Nov. 17, 1949, and 150 or more Americans on Merritt Island, Nov. 27. On the St. John's Marshes, 8 Glossy Ibis and an estimated 1000 White Ibis were feeding in a compact group, Nov. 17 (Ford). Black-crowned Night Herons were reported moving south at Tavernier, Oct. 3 to 20, and were still migrating, Nov. 3 to 4 (Allen). Late nesting White Ibis, Louisiana and Little Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons, American and Snowy Egrets raised successful broods at the National Audubon Society Sanctuary at Duck Rock. Nearly all young were flying by Oct. 10 (Brookfield).

Waterfowl.—Waterfowl and shorebirds arrived in large numbers late in October in North Florida and during the second half of November in South Florida. Early arrivals were 4 Blue-winged Teal seen by Earl Moore in the Miami Canal north of the dam, Aug. 21. At Key West, 4 Blue-wings were seen, Sept. 18, by Mrs. Hames. Near Tallahassee, Blue-winged Teal arrived "earlier than ever before" on Aug. 21; several Blue Geese were reported at Lake Jackson first week of November, and 1 at Wakulla Beach, Nov. 12; more than 5000 Redheads were also present; at St. Mark's Refuge were Mallards, Black, Gadwall, Baldpate, Pintail, Redhead, Ring-necked, and Lesser Scaup Ducks, Oct. 29 (Stevenson). Uncommon were 2 Buffleheads, males, Nov. 18. A Red-throated Loon, Nov. 23, in the Hillsboro Bay. Two Holboell's Grebes, Nov. 10, in Tampa Bay; large rafts of Lesser Scaups arrived in the Bays by Nov. 12 (Mrs. Brownsey). A remarkable flight of 25 White-winged Scoters was observed at St. Augustine Beach, Oct. 27; 14 Canada Geese flying along the inter-coastal waterway near St. Augustine, Oct. 29 (Pangburn). Fifty to 60 Canada Geese over the Halifax River at Daytona were noted on Nov. 3 (Rich). The Coot population in Coot Bay, Everglades National Park, increased from 28 individuals on Nov. 2 to about 30,000 by Dec. 2; an estimated 500 Baldpates, 200 Lesser Scaups and 100 Ruddy Ducks had joined the Coots by Dec. 2 (Brookfield).

Hawks and Eagles.—Short-tailed Hawks, always unusual, were noted at Coot Bay, 1 white phase, Nov. 6 (Brookfield) and 3 dark phase, Nov. 10 (Rheney); 2, both dark phase, were reported near Tavernier, Nov. 26 (Griswold). Swainson's Hawk over Coot Bay, was seen Nov. 26 (Stevenson and Brookfield); and again, Dec. 4 (Cufaude). An adult Bald Eagle flew over Paradise Key, Everglades National Park, Aug. 27 (Brookfield). One was seen at Alligator Point south of Tallahassee on Aug. 13 (Stevenson). Peregrine Falcons, never plentiful, were reported from various points: Key Biscayne, Sept. 17 (Griswold); scattering flight at Tavernier, Sept. 23 to 26 and again moving southwest along outside of the Keys on Oct. 5, "2 harrying small flocks of Little Blue Herons" that were also migrating (Allen); abundant (flocks of 5 or 6) at St. Augustine during migration "2 were noted during grasshopper flight, plucking flying grasshoppers from the air with their talons" (Pangburn).

Shorebirds.—In the Tampa area, Black-bellied Plovers show a notable increase in numbers; over 40 Marbled Godwits were seen on Nov. 10, and an estimated 1000 Red-backed Sandpipers, Nov. 30 (Mrs. Brownsey). Black-bellied Plovers and Spotted Sandpipers were numerous at Tavernier, Oct. 27 (Allen). Very early were 2 Ruddy Turnstones at Cowpen's Cut, west of Tavernier, 1 bird in breeding plumage, the other in fall plumage, Aug. 21 (Allen, Walsh, Brookfield).

Clifford Pangburn reported: "On Nov. 4 I made an observation which I hesitate to report as it concerns a sight observation of a species not previously known in Florida—this is the **Curlew Sandpiper.** Two birds were with a small flock of fall plumaged Red-backed Sandpipers on the beach. I was able to drive my car to within ten feet of the birds. My attention was first attracted by the continuous down curve of the bill as contrasted to the dropped tip of the Red-backs. Then in flight, I noted the white rumps. Further and equally close observation as the birds retreated slowly in front of my car, verified these points."

Stevenson wrote: "A one-legged **Golden Plover** at St. Marks was reported, Nov. 28. It permitted a close approach and was studied with 10x glasses.

The golden sheen above, absence of black under the wings and loud 'Kerwee' call note distinguished it from the Black-bellied."

Gulls and Terns.—A flock of more than 200 immature Laughing Gulls circled over Coot Bay, Nov. 9 (Brookfield). Large numbers of immature Herring Gulls and Ring-bills were at Cocoa Beach on Nov. 24. A Bonaparte's Gull, most unusual so far south in Florida, was spotted in a pond with other gulls east of Coot Bay on Nov. 26 (Stevenson). Cabot's Terns, formerly almost casual at St. Augustine, "have now reached such numbers that on Nov. 16 I counted 108 in flocks of other terns in a four-mile run along the beach" (Pangburn). Remarkable numbers of Cabot's Terns were noted near Tampa all season with a compact flock of 400 or more seen on Nov. 16 (Mrs. Brownsey). At Daytona Beach, 31 were observed, Nov. 17 (Miss Ames).

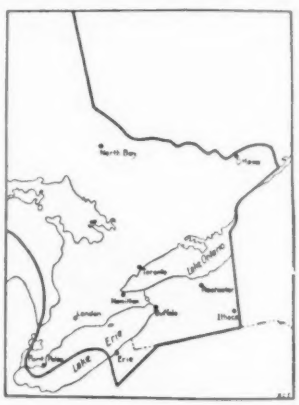
Pigeons and Doves.—An estimated 250 White-crowned Pigeons were at Stock Island near Key West, June 27 (Mrs. Hames). A White-crowned stayed late at Tavernier, Nov. 7. A White-winged Dove was killed on Upper Matacombie Key in November (Allen). Three White-wings were at the St. Marks Refuge, Oct. 29 (Stevenson).

Owls.—Two Horned Owls flew across the highway 5 miles north of Naples and alighted in a tree about 150 feet from the road, Sept. 29 (Brookfield). A pair of Burrowing Owls on the bank of the MacArthur Causeway, Miami, were watched by Oliver Griswold, Oct. 23. Examination of their excrement showed they had been eating crustaceans.

Land Birds.—Land birds, especially warblers, were recorded on the Keys migration in August and September. Coastal movements, light on the Gulf Coast, were above average on the Atlantic. Western Kingbirds, uncommon in the region, were widely noted this fall: 1 west of Kendall, Nov. 27 (Close); 4 at South Allapattah Gardens, Nov. 9 (Brookfield); 2 on Tamiami Trail 40 miles west of Miami, Nov. 6 (Stimson); 4 at Tavernier, Oct. 26 to 28 (Allen); 5 stayed at Key West from Oct. 26 to Nov. 16 (Mrs. Hames). Individuals were seen at Alligator Point, Oct. 10, and at Tallahassee, Oct. 16 (Stevenson). Among warblers, early migrants were a Black and White, a Parula, a Yellow-throated and an Am. Redstart at Miami, Aug. 26 (Walsh and Griswold). Black-throated Blues were moving through the Keys southward, Sept. 30 to Oct. 27 (Allen). Bobolinks, rare in fall, were seen at Turkey Point, Sept. 3, and New Port, North Florida, Oct. 29 (Stevenson). At Key West from 8 to 150 were noted at one time, Aug. 4 to Oct. 6 (Mrs. Hames). Cowbirds, estimated at 750, were at Lake Jackson on Sept. 12 (Cross). Tree and Rough-winged Swallows were migrating southward over Tavernier Key, Aug. 1 to 3 (Allen). Late Rough-wings were seen at Ball Point on the North Gulf Coast, Nov. 12 (Stevenson); about 20,000 Tree Swallows were noted between Oak Hill and Titusville on Nov. 6 (Rich). Three **Lichtenstein's Orioles** were seen in northwest Miami on Aug. 26 (Walsh, Griswold, Brookfield). A few days later these birds were seen by Alexander Sprunt, Jr., in the same locality. The following week a nesting pair feeding their young was observed by William Rheney and the writer. After the young had flown, the nest was collected and is now in the museum of the University of Miami. Reports from persons in the neighborhood indicate that these orioles were first seen in that locality after the hurricane of Sept., 1948. Six to 8 individuals had been seen at one time.

EDITORS' NOTE: The normal range of the Lichtenstein's Oriole (*Icterus gularis*), including the subspecies Alta Mira Oriole is Nicaragua, north to Tamaulipas, Mexico. The above record is the first for the United States east of Harlingen, Texas, where the species was reported under the name Alta Mira Oriole (see Goldman, *Audubon Field Notes, Vol.* 2, 2, *Mar.* 1948, *p.* 106). CHARLES M. BROOKFIELD, *National Audubon Society*, 13 *McAllister Arcade, Miami, Fla.*

ONTARIO-WESTERN NEW YORK REGION.—After one of the hottest and driest summers on record, the autumn was about normal (although the mean at Toronto for October was 56°, the second highest in 108 years). Due to the low level of the lower Great Lakes, great stretches of mudflats, normally under water, were exposed. Winter came suddenly the last week of November and southern Ontario generally was blanketed with 6 to 10 inches of snow (Toronto, with 5 inches, receiving its heaviest November snowfall since 1873) and Collingwood Harbor, south Georgian Bay, became ice-bound at the earliest date "in a good many years."



Cormorants.—A great flight of Double-crested Cormorants, moving down Lake Huron at Red Bay, Bruce Co., Ont., on Oct. 8, was witnessed by Maurice Brooks and I. B. Boggs.

Herons.—A widespread influx of Am. Egrets, which extended from the upper St. Lawrence River to Lake St. Clair, commenced at the end

of June. Sixteen at Turkey Point, Norfolk Co., Ont., on Aug. 2 (H. G. Lumsden) was the largest concentration reported. A few Little Blue Herons accompanied them (first recorded flight at Buffalo), and 8 at Turkey Point on Aug. 2 (Lumsden) was the record flock.

Geese.—A heavy migration of Blue Geese (with some Lesser Snows), passing down Lake Huron from Manitoulin to Pelee during the last week of October, was reported by Dr. C. H. D. Clarke. They were observed in smaller numbers eastward to Rochester. A **Black Brant** (now accorded only subspecific status), seen by Bernie Nathan, *et al.*, at Grand Island in the Niagara River, Nov. 13, was the second record for this area (2 at Hamilton, Dec. 31, 1948, G. W. North).

Ducks.—One of the most encouraging waterfowl trends of recent years here has been the increase of Wood Ducks. At Lorne Park (west of Toronto) Don Perks counted 44 (including 27 locally-reared young) on July 20; at Riverside marsh, near Buffalo, the Sundells saw 35, Aug. 31; at Pickering, east of Toronto, Greg Clark, Bob Trowern and Baillie saw 75, Sept. 11; and at Port Stanley, Elgin Co., Ont., Ron Shelley had 200 coming to roost, Oct. 23. Forty years ago and more, Redheads and Ruddy Ducks bred in the Lake St. Clair marshes. Some of each have been observed breeding there again during the past year or two, according to Lumsden. This July he saw 7 broods of the former on the 20th and 1 brood of the latter on the 27th, around the 'Bunches' at the mouth of Johnston Channel. A drake **European Teal** (easily distinguished from the Green-wing, yet considered by Peters to be only subspecies) turned up on the Humber marshes, Toronto, Oct. 23 (R. A. Smith). This was the first report in Canada away from Hamilton, where North and others have seen an occasional drake for the past 15 years.

Hawks.—One of the most conspicuous hawk flights that has ever been noted in this area took place in late September. Broad-wings predominated and 3625 of them were counted passing westward in 3¼ hours at Toronto on the 20th (R. M. Saunders), 3000 to 4000 at Chestnut Ridge, near Buffalo, on the 24th (James and R. Rosche) and 1498 passing to the west at Port Stanley on the latter date (K. Reynolds). Other hawks were well represented. The third observation of a **Black Vulture** in Ontario came from Kaladar, Addington Co., about June 23 (W. E. Edwards, Zone Forester). Previous records were 1 in Welland Co. (1947) and a pair in Norfolk Co. (1948).

Grouse.—With the continued prosperity of **Sharp-tailed Grouse** and Pinnated Grouse on Manitoulin Island, northern Lake Huron (since they first appeared at the western end of that island about 1932), reports of their presence beyond that island in Ontario have been awaited with interest. This season, two such observations, both Sharp-tails, were reported: 1 near Mar, Bruce Co., on Sept. 3 (Jaquiths) and 1 at Restoule, Parry Sound District, Oct. 13 (Paul Harrington).

Turkeys.—In an effort to re-establish the **Wild Turkey** in southern Ontario (extinct since about 1902), the Dept. of Lands and Forests this year released 2 toms and 4 hens (from the Pennsylvania Game Commission) at Smith Lake, Lambton Co., on May 9. They bred, as Lumsden reported one in October with a brood of 6 almost fully grown young.

Shorebirds.—It was a good season for these birds, due to the low water levels. Good concentrations were 14 Dowitchers on the Hamilton mud flats Sept. 2 (G. Francis, I. Halladay), 100 Killdeer there Sept. 3 (D. Miller, Trowern, Braille) and 2000 birds, including hundreds of Pectoral Sandpipers, 70 Black-bellied Plover and 26 Golden Plover at Rochester, Oct. 9 (A. S. Klonick). Rare species observed included Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Wasaga Beach, Simcoe Co., Ont., Aug. 28 (E. L. Brereton), 2 Avocets at Hamilton, Sept. 2, through month—6th Ontario record (Geo. Holland) and Ruff near Rochester in late October and early November (A. E. Kemnitzer). Willets were reported from four places: Rockhouse Pt., Ont., near Buffalo, Aug. 28 (W. Vaughan, E. Ulrich); Brighton, Ont., Sept. 3 to 7 (O. Kelly); Niagara Gorge, Sept. 4 to 8 (H. Mitchell, Nathan, *et al.*); and Hamilton, Sept. 6 (North).

Owls.—During October and November, Frank Smith, Gordon Lambert and other Toronto banders handled 175 Saw-whet Owls and saw 36 Long-eared Owls one day (Nov. 5). A substantial flight of Snowy Owls came down in November (Fort William on Nov. 5, Toronto on Nov. 6).

Woodpeckers.—A marked flight of Flickers (300) was witnessed at Port Credit, west of Toronto, on Oct. 29 by Lucie McDougall; the birds were moving in a southwesterly direction.

Flycatchers.—New for Canada, and apparently the first observation north of Utah and Oklahoma, was a **Vermilion Flycatcher** at Toronto on the late afternoon of Oct. 29 (Thos. C. Swift). According to W. L. Godson, Division of Research, Meteorological Service of Canada, a cold front from northwestern Canada created a situation of warm westerly winds in the general vicinity of Utah on the evening of Oct. 28. These winds, of a velocity of 20 to 25 m.p.h., carried tropical air in the lower layers, and shifted to southwesterly as they subsided in southern Ontario about noon on the 29th. It seems possible that this "blow" may have been responsible for the presence of this bird in Canada, so far north of its normal range. The specimen, collected by C. E. Hope on Nov. 1, was an immature male. It had a healed injury in its left femur (which did not noticeably affect the bird's activity) but was fat, in good condition and showed no signs of captivity.

Swallows.—A heavy concentration of 10,000 Cliff Swallows was observed on Aug. 12 by L. C. Lawrence and his wife, Louise, at Callander and Nosbonsing, in the Lake Nipissing section of southern Ontario.

Jays.—Fifteen hundred Blue Jays passing through Sherwood Park, Toronto, in a southwesterly direction, Sept. 20 (H. M. Halliday), and 1050 moving westward in 2 hours at Port Stanley, Oct. 8 (W. and F. Girling), indicated a heavy migration of these birds.

Thrushes.—Bernie Nathan and Bert Wright discovered the first **Greenland Wheatear** for the Buffalo region on Sept. 24 at Ridgeway, Welland Co., Ont. (6th Ontario record), associating with a migrating flock of Am. Pipits and Savannah Sparrows. Wright took Kodachrome movies of the stranger.

Shrikes, Vireos.—More Northern Shrikes appeared in late October in the Toronto region than for perhaps 30 years previously. The second record of the Yellow-throated Vireo in western Ontario came from Galt Island, Lake of the Woods, June 5 (Les Paterson). The bird, a male, was collected by Baillie.

Warblers.—A new breeder for Canada was the **Hooded Warbler,** nest with 3 eggs of which was found by Fred Bodsworth at Orwell, Elgin Co., Ont., July 27. Hugh Halliday photographed the female feeding the 3 nestlings on Aug. 7. Interesting discoveries were a Wilson's Warbler nest with 5 eggs at Port Arthur, Ont., June 22 (L. S. Dear), a Connecticut Warbler attending a fully-grown young 25 miles west of Cochrane, Ont., Aug. 9 (Wm. C. Baker), and a Yellow-breasted Chat nest with 4 eggs in Perth Co., Ont. (K. Reynolds). Late lingerers were Cape May Warbler at Rutherglen, Ont., Nov. 23 (Louise Lawrence), and 3 Myrtle Warblers at Toronto, Nov. 29 (Naomi LeVay, Mae Halliday and Ruth Northcott). The increase of Blue-winged and Brewster's Warblers of recent years in western New York is commented upon in the 'Prothonotary.' During the past season, the Buffalo Ornithological Society obtained its first definite record of **Lawrence's Warbler,** June 12 (male at Onoville).

Bobolink.—A new northern breeding limit for the **Bobolink** in Ontario was established by R. I. Bowman at Chapleau, July 29 (female with fledglings).

Finches.—Not previously reported in Ontario was the **Black-headed Grosbeak,** a pair of which was identified by Mrs. Ralph D. Baker and Mrs. F. G. Mathers at Kenora, Lake of the Woods, Aug. 28 (A. G. Lawrence). O. E. Devitt saw the first **Smith's Longspur** for southern Ontario at Elmvale, Simcoe Co., May 22.—JAMES L. BAILLIE, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto.*

NOTE: New listing of Common Names for Some Species, Pages 37-39.

APPALACHIAN REGION.—Never before in my experience has a fall migration season in the Appalachian Region produced so much of ornithological interest as in 1949. With a Western Grebe in eastern Ohio, Northern Phalaropes in eastern Ohio and in the Pennsylvania mountains, Golden and Black-bellied Plovers in western Virginia, heavy hawk flights throughout the mountains, 1500 Blue and Snow Geese in West Virginia, and a White Pelican and four White Ibis in eastern Tennessee, the season was indeed a banner one.

The Region experienced warm and rather dry weather in September and October, with seasonable cool temperatures in November. First killing frosts were two to three weeks later than normal. Despite the cool November, daily excess in temperature for the year stood at about 1090 degrees at the Pittsburgh weather station. There were few noticeable "waves" of insectivorous birds, but hawks, shorebirds, and waterfowl came through in large flocks.

Loons through Ibises.—A **Western Grebe,** the first for eastern Ohio since 1915, spent Nov. 7-9 on Meander Reservoir (near Youngstown), where it was observed by McLaughlin and others. On Oct. 13, Handley counted 347 Pied-billed Grebes on the Great Kanawha River within the city limits of Charleston, W. Va. Eight Horned Grebes were noted by the same observer on Oct. 26.

Howell reported a White Pelican wounded near Concord, Tenn., on Sept. 25. The bird was under observation for a month. A flock of 13 **Yellow-crowned Night Herons,** the first from northeastern Ohio, was reported by McLaughlin. A Least Bittern in the "Cory" color phase flew into an office building in Youngstown, Ohio. Ferris secured motion pictures in color of the bird. Although outside the time scope of this report, four immature **White Ibis** near Knoxville, Tenn., on July 29 constitute the second record for this species in the state (Howell).

Ducks, Geese, and Swans.—There were two notable flights of geese through the region, one through the Ohio Valley on Oct. 24-25, and another through western Pennsylvania and West Virginia on Oct. 25-26. Many observers reported more geese than they have ever seen previously at any one time. The notable eastward extension of the Blue and Lesser Snow Goose flight continues and accelerates. On Oct. 25, Handley saw 1500 Blue and Snow Geese in Putnam County, W. Va. Most were Blues. In Marshall County, W. Va., Bezdek saw two Snows in a flock of Can-

adas on Oct. 25. Handley examined an immature Blue picked up in Roane County, W. Va., on the same date. On Oct. 28, Bailey flushed a mature Blue near Seebert, Pocahontas County, W. Va. He and Handley counted 100 Blues and 8 Snows in Putnam County on Oct. 31. Blues three times and Snows twice are reported by McLaughlin from eastern Ohio. Mrs. Neale again found Blues in Habersham County, Ga.

Two flocks of Whistling Swans were noted during November in Ohio. Johnson saw a flock of 25 at Kumbrabow State Forest, Randolph County, W. Va. Sizeable flocks of ducks accompanied the geese on Oct. 25-26. Handley counted over 1000 along the Kanawha River, and Wylie found several hundred, of many species on Cheat Lake, Monongalia County, W. Va. Ruddy Ducks, in this region at least, continue an encouraging increase. McLaughlin noted a flock of 3000 in eastern Ohio on Nov. 7. They were numerous on Cheat Lake on Oct. 26, and Handley counted 25 in Kanawha County, W. Va., on the same date.

Hawks through Turkeys.—This year a concerted effort to observe hawk migrations through the Appalachians was made by observers in Maryland, West Virginia, and Virginia. The best count, made at Roaring Plains (el. 4000 ft.), W. Va., was by DeGarmo, on Sept. 17. Between 11:45 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., his list reads Broad-winged, 2650; Sharp-shinned, 8; Cooper's, 7; Sparrow, 5; Osprey, 2; Marsh, 1; Red-tailed, 1; Bald Eagle, 1; unidentified, 6. Total, 2681. Near the same locality on Oct. 1, DeGarmo and Handley listed 131 hawks, with 97 Sharp-shinned and 23 Red-tailed making the bulk of the count. Carpenter also had excellent results in the George Washington National Forest, Va., near the Virginia-West Virginia line. McLaughlin notes five Peregrine Falcons and two Pigeon Hawks in eastern Ohio.

Experience of hunters this fall has confirmed earlier observations as to good populations of Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkey in the Appalachian Region.

Rails, Shorebirds.—McLaughlin states that rails were in good numbers in eastern Ohio, and he calls the shorebird migration the "high spot" of the fall. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen there on three occasions, with one flock of 17. Dressel found a Marbled Godwit in eastern Ohio on Oct. 22. This region also furnished two records of Wilson's Phalaropes, and a number of occurrences of the Northern Phalarope, one a flock of 23 on Sept. 5. Hue and Smalley saw a Northern Phalarope at State College, Pa., on Oct. 7. A Golden Plover, collected by Carpenter near Dayton, Va., on Oct. 5, is the first record for Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. Another first record for the Valley was a Ruddy Turnstone seen by Paxton near Lexington on Aug. 28. The same observer found Black-bellied Plovers on Aug. 28, and Handley found a single individual near Charleston, W. Va., on Oct. 13 and Oct. 26. A Stilt Sandpiper, found by Murray at Cameron's Pond, Va., on Sept. 22 is the second record for the Shenandoah Valley. Miss Renneckor reports a flock of 40 White-rumped Sandpipers at Mosquito Creek Dam, Ohio, on Sept. 24.

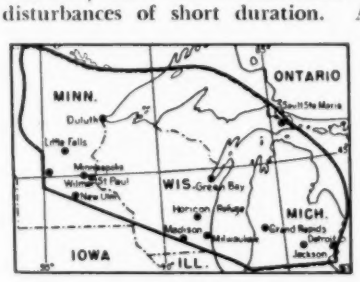
Owls, Goatsuckers.—Dowling reported a Saw-whet Owl collected near State College, Pa., on Nov. 12. Richter took one in Ohio on Nov. 5. On the evening of Aug. 24, Handley estimated a flock of 4000 Nighthawks over Charleston, W. Va. This coincided with a heavy flight of winged ants on which the birds were feeding.

Passerine Birds.—Very heavy flights of Cliff Swallows went through the mountains as usual. They had started concentrating by Aug. 8. Many observers commented on unusual numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches. They have been found at Knoxville, Tenn. (Howell), and Demorest, Ga. (Mrs. Neal). Johnson considers the Tufted Titmouse rare at Warren, Pa., but found two on Nov. 5.

Warblers drifted through in their usual numbers. Cape Mays were, as usual, abundant. In some instances they damaged grapes. Of unusual interest is a Blue-winged Warbler at Lexington, Va., on Sept. 7 (Paxton), and a Palm Warbler (Yellow) in Ohio on Sept. 15 (McLaughlin). A Yellow-throat at Demorest, Ga., on Nov. 30, was late (Mrs. Neal).

The first fall record of Blue Grosbeak at Knoxville, Tenn., was made on Sept. 5, when four were seen (Howell). In the Great Smokies, Springer saw a male and five female Red Crossbills on Nov. 30. Curry, Clarke, and others reported a Sharp-tailed Sparrow at State College, Pa., on Oct. 9. No northern finches of any species have appeared thus far.—MAURICE BROOKS, *West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va.*

WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION.—The unusually mild fall weather had several climatic disturbances of short duration. A severe windstorm occurred on Oct. 10, when sustained winds of 50 m.p.h. held for 3½ hours and a peak gust of 89 m.p.h. was reported by the Minneapolis Weather Bureau. Snow has blanketed the northern part of the area since the first of November, and 11 inches of snow were reported for Kalamazoo, Mich., on Nov. 24. In spite of heavy rains during early fall, an accumulated deficiency in precipitation remains (–2.69 inches since Janu-



ary). Due to the mild fall weather many migrants remained later than usual, but in contrast, several observers remarked concerning the early departure of some species: certain land birds (Kenaga), and Sandhill Crane (Henry), due partially to a lack of berries.

Herons.—This fall marked another good year for the "white herons" in the western part of the region. A good summary of the fall distribution of Am. Egrets in Minnesota was furnished by biologists from the Conservation Department, who flew 2500 miles in an aerial survey of waterfowl during mid-August. Out of a total of 290 Am. Egrets, 231 were tallied along the Mississippi River between Hastings and Winona, Minn. (Lee, Longley, Zorichak). In Wisconsin, numbers present from the latter part of July until October, were comparable with those of 1948. Several flocks of 200 were seen, one in Vernon Co. (Morse), and one in Dodge Co. (Mallow), while the northernmost records from Wisconsin were at Rib Lake, Taylor Co., July 19 (Hasford and Knudtson) and at Marathon Co. (Goldsmith). Reports from Michigan do not indicate such an invasion of Am. Egrets. They arrived near Kalamazoo on June 29, but were scattered in groups of a dozen or less (Hall). Snowy Egrets were recorded at 5 separate places in Wisconsin, more than ever recorded in recent years (Higgins, Larkin, Robbins, *et al*). Also a remarkable increase in Little Blue Herons, with 21 immature and 2 adults observed at 8 different places in Wisconsin by many observers.

Waterfowl.—The migration was spectacular both in numbers and in species seen. This can be partly attributed to an increase in numbers and partly to unusual migratory behavior, particularly of the geese. Robley Hunt believed that storms and cold weather in the Dakotas forced the geese eastward. At Mud Lake National Wildlife Refuge, in northwestern Minnesota, Hunt reported a tremendous flight of Canada, Richardson's, Snow (present by the thousands) and Blue Geese which began on Oct. 21. They extended as far as 20 miles out from the refuge boundary, and native residents could not recall ever having seen such large numbers. In Wisconsin, Canada Geese, Snow and Blue Geese were also plentiful during October (Robbins). Michigan observers also reported goodly numbers of Canada, Snow and Blue Geese. Ordinarily not many Snow and Blue Geese stop at the Seney National Wildlife Refuge near Germfask, Mich., but this year they appeared in great numbers on Oct. 14, and remained until Oct. 30. In Allegan Co., Mich., an unusually large flock of 15,000 Canada Geese remained from mid-October until Nov. 26. A thorough check of this area revealed the presence of 7 Richardson's Geese (*hutchinsii*) (Pirnie and Hall). All observers reported increases in duck populations, and two observers specifically mentioned Wood Ducks. In Michigan, Ring-necked Ducks (peak 10,000), Blacks, Mallards, Baldpates, Green-winged Teal, American and Hooded Mergansers and Wood Ducks were the most common migratory species at Seney Refuge, and from Kalamazoo there was a report of a large flight of Pintails on Sept. 30 (Hall). Wisconsin observers also reported a good fall flight of ducks. The same situation existed in Minnesota, exemplified by a spectacular flight of ducks (species not designated) witnessed by Paul Murphy at Rondeau Lake north of St. Paul. He estimated a flight of over 100 birds per minute, with a final estimate of 20,000 arrived at the lake on the evening of Sept. 8. No one had ever seen such a flight at this lake. A similar evening flight, mostly Mallards, was observed near Minneapolis on Nov. 6 (Lupient, Mr. and Mrs. M. Willey). At Duluth, the fall migration of Am. Golden-eyes was late, probably due to the mild weather, and on Nov. 18 only 1 were seen (Bronoel). In Michigan a flight of Am. Golden-eyes, Lesser Scaup and Ring-necks was noted on Nov. 15 in Barry Co. (Hall). At Seney Refuge, the first migrating Am. Golden-eyes and Buffle-heads appeared on Sept. 16 (Henry). Although records of White-winged Scoters might be expected, records of the Surf and Am. Scoters were received. A Surf Scoter was shot on Oct. 29 in Hennepin Co., Minn. (Kobs), and in Wisconsin the first positive record in 10 years for this species was 1 near Madison on Oct. 12 (Nero). Three Am. Scoters were observed on Lake Michigan in Sheboygan Co., Wis., on Nov. 25 (Helmuth, Mueller, *et al.*) and in Minnesota a specimen was obtained from Lake Co., shot by Lloyd Campbell on Oct. 26.

Hawks.—Through the alertness of Franklin Willis, a specimen of the **Swallow-tailed Kite,** shot near Spring Valley, Fillmore Co., Minn., in August, was received at the Minnesota Museum of Natural History. This is the first Minnesota record since 1923. The circumstances which brought this bird so far north can only remain conjecture, but its presence lends credence to two other sight records. Near Menomonie, Wis., Helmar Mattison saw a bird perched in a tree, eating a frog. The bird was observed at about 20 rods with a 20X glass. His description fitted that of the Swallow-tailed Kite, with the exception of a "white bar on the wing." It is conceivable that the white under-wing coverts, tertiaries, or body feathers could show in such a way as to resemble a bar. Wynne Lawrence and several other observers reported seeing a large black and white bird with a long forked tail soaring overhead at Round Lake, Crow Wing Co., Minn., on Oct. 9. There were fair numbers of hawks traveling through the St. Paul-Minneapolis area between Oct. 24 and Nov. 5 (Lupient). At Cedar Grove, Wis., a very good observation point for hawks, 1100 Broad-wings were seen on Sept. 19 (Donald), 2000 Broad-wings on Sept. 22 (Larkin) and Oct. 9 about 100

observers saw 375 Sharp-shins and 30 Pigeon Hawks.

Gallinaceous Birds.—An increase in Sharp-tailed and Ruffed Grouse was reported at Seney Refuge, Mich. (Henry) and 2 Pinnated Grouse were seen west of Seney on Sept. 4 by Walkinshaw, who wrote, "The first I have seen in Michigan in several years."

Rails.—A remarkable concentration of Sora Rails, estimated at 1000, was reported in Ozaukee Co., Wis., Sept. 14 (Larkin).

Shorebirds.—Several observers felt that shorebirds were seen in greater variety and stayed later than usual. At Cedar Grove, Wis., a flight of 500 Greater Yellow-legs, 150 Lesser Yellow-legs and 350 Wilson's Snipes was observed on Oct. 23 (Mueller and Berger). A Greater Yellow-legs was seen as late as Nov. 6 at Genoa, Vernon Co., Wis. (Morse). There were 2 records of Willets from Wisconsin, 1 at Milwaukee, Sept. 5 (LeTillier, *et al.*) and 1 on the same date at Mazomanie (Barger and Scott). Two observations of Knots were reported from Wisconsin, 1 at Racine the latter part of August (Prins) and 1 which remained near Milwaukee from Aug. 7 to Oct. 10 (Larkin, *et al.*). About a dozen Stilt Sandpipers, an uncommon migrant, were recorded in Wisconsin. Another uncommon shorebird in that state, the Red Phalarope, was seen near Racine, Oct. 27 (Prins). Baird's Sandpipers were reported from both Wisconsin and Michigan. In Wisconsin the 5 reports were more widespread than usual. In Michigan the birds were observed near Kalamazoo during mid-October (Hall). Mrs. Hall also reported that Woodcock were very scarce during migration.

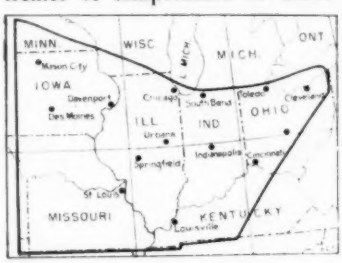
Owls.—The Snowy Owl invasion has been so pronounced as to cause many newspaper comments in all 3 states. Up to the present (Dec. 9), 14 records have been received at the Minnesota Museum, and 2 birds have been present on the Minnesota Campus since Nov. 17. Newspaper clippings indicate the presence of this bird in the Green Bay, Wis., area since early November (Robbins) and 1 has remained in Milwaukee since Nov. 3 (Balsom, *et al.*). In Michigan they were present in the Houghton Lake area (Hall) and at Seney Refuge (Henry) since the first week of November; in Allegan Co., since Nov. 15 (Hall).

Woodpeckers.—An unusual record was a female Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker as far south as St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 5 (Rosenwinkel, *et al.*).

Perching Birds.—A late departure date for Tree Swallows in Kalamazoo Co., Mich., was Oct. 23 (Lilly and Hall). The **Black-billed Magpie** is apparently moving eastward. At Mud Lake Refuge in northwestern Minnesota, Magpies were observed throughout the summer. One was also reported from Milwaukee, Wis., on Oct. 2 (Firster, *et al.*). The warbler migration was marked by several peculiarities. In Wisconsin there was a pronounced influx of Orange-crowns. Both Wisconsin and Michigan observers commented on the lateness of departure of warblers. At Kalamazoo, Mich., Blackburnian Warblers arrived as early as Aug. 24 (Hall), and the same observer reported Yellow-throats singing in early October. A Hooded Warbler, noticeable because of its size and the white in its tail, was observed in Dane Co., Wis., Sept. 12 (Robbins). There seems to be an impending "Evening Grosbeak year." In Michigan they have been seen at Midland, Oct. 21 (Kenaga) and in Barry Co., Nov. 16 (Hall). In Wisconsin the invasion began Oct. 19 (Axley) and numbers have been increasing; 200 at Cedar Grove on Oct. 30 (Mueller) and 600 at the same place on Nov. 6 (Mueller and Orians)! In Minnesota, Evening Grosbeaks arrived early in Duluth (Bronoel) where late departing Robins had eaten most of the Mountain Ash berries which are so attractive to the Grosbeak there. One was seen as far south as Minneapolis (T. Breckenridge). Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs and Am. Pipits were numerous at Duluth, Minn. (Bronoel) and in Michigan, Henry reported that large numbers of Snow Buntings began arriving on Oct. 22 and remained for two weeks.—HARVEY L. GUNDERSON, *Minnesota Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis 14, Minn.*

Correction: Lines 6 and 7, column 1 of AUDUBON FIELD NOTES, Vol. 3, p. 237, should read, "Two hundred common terns, not definitely known to be nesting, were found at Zilwaukee, Mich., on June 11 (Kenaga)."

MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION.—The fall was generally mild and pleasant without extremes of temperature or other unusual features affecting migration noticeably for the region as a whole. Rains were heaviest in southern Illinois and southern Indiana, where high water levels reduced opportunities for seeing shorebirds along the margins of streams and lakes.



The major events of the fall were the invasion of Snowy Owls and the flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches, as described later in this report.

Herons.—The late-summer and fall flight of Am. Egrets continued late, with scattered records after Nov. 1, but the flight was not quite up to that of 1948. It is interesting to note that in the year of a great flight, egrets are not much more numerous than usual in the large marshes favored by this bird but are found commonly on small streams, inland ponds, and other marginal loca-

tions where egrets are rare or missing entirely in ordinary years.

The greatest rarity of the season was a Reddish Egret at St. Louis on July 29 (Comfort). This bird, seen with Am. Egrets, had typical adult plumage about the head and neck but had many white feathers on the body. The bird was studied at sufficiently close range to permit the two-toned bill to be discerned. We know of no previous record in this region.

Ibises.—On Aug. 1, Hardy found 4 **Wood Ibises** along the Mississippi River in southern Illinois. Two days later he found 12 birds. Records of the Wood Ibis (and ornithologists) are rare here, but Hardy suspects that this bird may occur more often than has been supposed. Some people living along the river say they have seen "the birds with black-bordered wings" in previous years. An Eastern Glossy Ibis was collected at Lake Grant in Brown County, Ohio, near Cincinnati on Oct. 1 (Austing). This may be the first completely satisfactory record for Ohio, since the only other specimen for the State, taken 101 years ago, is missing and there is the possibility it may have been a White-faced Glossy Ibis.

Swans and Geese.—A pair of Mute Swans from Nov. 13 to 20 on the Sandusky marshes (Hill and Carrothers) serves as another reminder that it is no longer possible to assume that all swans seen in the migration period are Whistling Swans. The number of Blue and Snow Geese this fall was larger than we expect normally, although it was less than the remarkable flight of last year. The peak movement of Blue, Snow, and Canada Geese occurred about Oct. 23. A **Brant** was seen on the Scioto River in Delaware County, Ohio, on Nov. 6 by 20 members of the Columbus Audubon Society (Thomas); the only other central Ohio record for this species is a somewhat dubious spring report in 1902.

Ducks.—The duck flight was good although divers were late in arriving, probably as a result of the late freeze-up farther north. Green-winged Teal seemed particularly numerous and early. Wood Ducks are continuing to increase slowly.

Hawks.—It was a good season for Rough-legged Hawks. These birds were seen in almost every locality south to the Ohio River. Most of them came after Oct. 25, but a few were earlier, including 1 phenomenally early Rough-leg on Sept. 9 near Cincinnati (Roach, Austing). Broad-winged Hawk flights are not often seen in fall in this region; so a moderate flight in late September may be worth recording. On the evening of Sept. 23, people at the western end of Lake Erie (not trained observers) reported "thousands of hawks" quartering southwest against a westerly wind. The following morning, Campbell counted 90 at one time spiralling south over the business district of Toledo. Luthy counted 74 over Peoria, Ill., on Sept. 21. Golden Eagles are seldom reported in this region and most sight records of this bird are viewed with some suspicion. However, this fall a crippled sub-adult was captured on Nov. 11, nursed back to health, banded and released on Nov. 30 at Lafayette, Ind. (Burr and Kirkpatrick). On Mar. 17, 1949, a Golden Eagle, not reported before, was shot near Bowling Green and the wing was preserved at Bowling Green State University (Myers). In view of the alleged rarity of the Peregrine Falcon in the Midwest, it may surprise some readers to learn that we have a dozen records for the past season, from August to November, from the Great Lakes to the Ohio River. Unexpected so far east was a Prairie Falcon at Davenport, Iowa, in the first week of November (Hodges).

Cranes.—Although Sandhill Cranes nest in southern Michigan, they are seldom seen in this region except in spring at the traditional staging point in the Jasper-Pulaski area of Indiana. Therefore, these 2 observations are of interest: 5 on Nov. 18 near Lafayette, Ind. (Kirkpatrick), and 3 at Ashtabula, Ohio, in November (Wharrum, Smith).

Owls.—Up to Dec. 1, I had received reports of 23 Snowy Owls, the first on Nov. 9. All of these records lay north of an arc swung southeastward from Rockford, Ill., through Indianapolis to Cincinnati. None were as far west as the Mississippi River, and the farthest south was at Erlanger, Ky., just across the Ohio River from Cincinnati.

Shorebirds.—Although not many Wilson's Snipe were seen anywhere, some observers felt there were a few more this year than in the last few years. Woodcock in migration were so scarce, typically, that it is difficult to express an opinion about their increase or decrease. The Hudsonian Curlew, rare at any time but particularly in fall, was seen at St. Louis on Sept. 4, the first record there for many years (Van Benthuysen); others were seen at Chicago on Sept. 24 (3) and on Sept. 29 (Zimmerman, Campbell, and Baldwin), and at Put-In-Bay, Ohio, on Oct. 1 (Trautman). The Willet (2) was found at East Harbor near Sandusky on Nov. 12 (Myers), Buff-breasted Sandpipers, mostly in the first week of September, and Golden Plover were seen at scattered localities from Kansas to Ohio. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper on Sept. 2 was the first in history for the Cincinnati area (Goodpaster and Maslowski). A Red Phalarope, caught and banded at the falls of the Ohio near Louisville on Sept. 28, was the third record for Kentucky (Lovell).

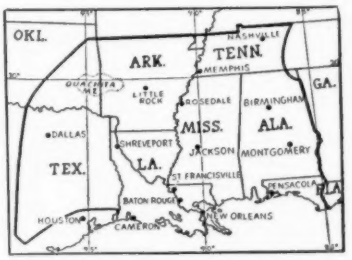
Jaegers, Gulls and Terns.—The number of Parasitic Jaegers seen at Chicago would lead us to suspect a "flight" of these birds this year, but there are no reports yet away from the south end of Lake Michigan. They were seen first on Oct. 19 and remained through November. One party saw 7 in a day.

Perching Birds.—I believe a review of Bennett's study of the birds in Lincoln Park, Chicago, has more value than any generalizations I could make about the region as a whole. Bennett's study is based upon daily records for the same area and thus permits exact comparisons between days and between years. He found that the migration of warblers began rather late—in the last week of August. He saw only 3 warblers before Aug. 22, while in 1948 he saw 275 by this date; the early movement in 1948, he suggests, may have been a result of dry weather north. In September, warblers passed through in a fairly steady stream. "Weather waves," mostly Myrtle Warblers, were noted on Oct. 11 (103 warblers), Oct. 14 (122 warblers), and Oct. 23 (135 warblers); in the 4 preceding years, he had never counted more than 100 warblers in a day after Oct. 7. In spite of this evidence of a generally late movement and in spite of the mild weather, he found only 7 warblers, all Myrtles, in November—a low number. Bennett's total count of warblers in the fall of 1949 was 6284, well under the 8087 of 1948, but well above the average of the previous 3 years. He found flycatchers scarce in 1949 and sparrows below normal. His figures bear out the impressions of some other observers, that Juncos, White-crowned Sparrows, and White-throated Sparrows were only half as numerous in the Chicago area as in 1948. Bennett's 21 Red-breasted Nuthatches, as compared with 3 in each of the 2 previous years, give a measure of the relative abundance of this irregular transient at Chicago. In other areas the reports were more spectacular, with 6 or more Red-breasted Nuthatches seen in a day, where none were reported in the previous year. The flight appears to have been widespread, extending at least as far west as the Mississippi River.

The rare Western Kingbird was found near Columbus along the Scioto River on Aug. 25 (Wagner). A Bohemian Waxwing, seen under conditions permitting direct comparison with the Cedar Waxwing, remained for at least a week following Nov. 15 in Lincoln Park, Chicago (Baldwin, Campbell, Bennett, and others). On Nov. 21 a Northern Shrike was seen in pursuit of a sparrow at the Elk Grove Forest Preserve near Chicago (Freeman). The possibility of a flight of crossbills and northern grosbeaks this winter was suggested by occurrences of the very rare Pine Grosbeak (1 female) and the rare Red Crossbill (8) on Nov. 27 at Chicago (Campbell and others). Evening Grosbeaks and White-winged Crossbills were present in Cleveland in the late fall.

Note to readers.—The fall brought an unusually splendid response from observers all over this region. Yet this circumstance, gratifying as it was in most respects, presented your regional editor with the difficult task of compressing into this brief report what seemed to him the most significant items from 103 pages of manuscript notes submitted. Perhaps this will explain the omission of many items locally of great interest.—HAROLD MAYFIELD, 2557 *Portsmouth Ave., Toledo, Ohio.*

CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION.—After a wet summer, the weather in most of the region during most of the fall season was extremely dry, with few marked departures from normal temperature. At Baton Rouge, only .08 inch of rain fell in the driest November on record. Water levels sank low over a wide area, and the end of the period found the lower Mississippi "flyway" in poor condition to hold ducks, with swamps, lakes and flood bottoms parched and burning. The long spells of clear weather seem to have allowed more than the usual proportion of southbound migrants to pass over unseen. But the effect of adverse weather on fall migration in our Gulf coast region was briefly demonstrated at Pensacola by the strong winds and almost continuous rain of Sept. 19-22. Weston remarks that under such conditions the progress of southbound transients is apparently limited to short daytime flights from tree to tree. When they reach the coast, they wait for the weather to improve before starting the long over-water flight. In this instance, the accumulation of several days' influx of birds into the coastal woods resulted in spectacular concentrations of flycatchers, vireos, and warblers. In northern Alabama, a sharp drop in temperature to 39° on Sept. 30, followed by a warm October, appears to have hastened the departure of early migrants and to have retarded the arrival of late ones. But, though the effect of the weather on the whole made for a disappointing migration of small land birds, there were enough exceptions and enough notable observations among water birds to make the period an eventful one. Weston's list of rarities from northwestern Florida was the longest in his three decades of reported observation.



Geese and Ducks.—There are authenticated reports that several hundred Blue Geese summered this year in Vermilion Parish, La.—an unprecedented occurrence. Less credible are rumors that some of the birds nested; a census of "summering" individuals by Lynch showed that better than 95% were immature birds. Many observers commented on the unusual number of geese this fall. According to our information, Blue Geese were still moving through southern Manitoba on Oct.

20-21. Lynch, the Flyway Biologist, found his first Snows and Blues of the season in Louisiana only 2 days later, on the evening of Oct. 23. A very marked influx continued through the 25th. On this date, Givens counted 350 mixed Snows and Blues on the Wheeler Refuge, in northern Ala., where they now have become regular visitors every fall; Imhof identified 1 Snow Goose (1st record for the county) and 2 Blue Geese (2nd record) flying over Birmingham; and many observers in northwest Florida reported large flocks of unidentified geese proceeding westward along or near the coast. On the following day great numbers of geese began arriving at the Delta Refuge, at the mouth of the Mississippi River, where Myers this year has estimated a 20% increase in Canadas, a 20% decrease in Blues. In general, however, the proportion of young among the latter seems to point to a fair hatch. In spite of some reports of stop-over Blues in the upper Mississippi Valley, Lynch believes that this season's migration was largely a concerted nonstop movement—nothing like the interrupted fall migration of 1948. According to Lynch, the flooded rice fields of southwestern Louisiana and eastern Texas held up many transient dabbling ducks, that otherwise would have quickly moved farther south, and apparently attracted many birds from southeastern Louisiana. By mid-November the pile-up became quite spectacular, with Blue-winged Teal numbering 100,000 and **Fulvous Tree Ducks,** a phenomenal 8000. During the latter half of the month, however, when the hunting season opened in Louisiana and the first part of the Texas season closed, these concentrations disappeared. Some of the ducks have since appeared in the coastal marshes, but Louisiana had half the number of ducks at the end of November that it had the first part of the month. At the same time, the Texas Coastal Waterfowl Survey turned up record numbers. Earlier than ever in their respective areas were: Ruddy Duck, Pensacola (rare there), Oct. 27 (Goodnight); Redhead, Baton Rouge, Oct. 30 (Mr. and Mrs. Moore); and Black Duck, 22 at False River, 25 mi. northwest Baton Rouge, Nov. 11 (Krebs).

Hawks.—The Swallow-tailed Kite is believed to have bred this season at Baines, La., though the nest was not located. The 3 birds last seen there on Sept. 3 (Winston) constitute the only definite fall record at hand for the State. This fall Imhof secured the first concrete evidence of substantial Broad-wing flights through northern Alabama. On the morning of Sept. 21, he counted 78 individuals in less than 10 minutes migrating on a 5-10 m.p.h. northwest wind. In contrast, the extended hawk flight, that usually materializes early in October at Pensacola, was not evident this year (Weston). At the White River Refuge in Arkansas, the hawk population reached a peak about Nov. 7, with Swainson's Hawk the most numerous species, and Rough-legged Hawk least numerous (Van Huizen). The occurrence of Swainson's Hawk in numbers in Arkansas is interesting because there are no records at all for Louisiana immediately to the south. Though it seems strange to include a breeding activity in the fall report, two Bald Eagles were observed in courting flight on Sept. 24 at Pensacola (Miss Pate).

Rails, Shorebirds, Terns.—The Virginia Rail was recorded at Pensacola on Aug. 26, earlier than ever before (Wicke); and a Black Rail flew into a garage at Fort Walton, Fla., on Oct. 25 (Shannon). Imhof remarks that shorebirds seem to be more abundant migrants through the Tennessee Valley than previously suspected. On Aug. 29, at Wheeler Refuge, he listed 14 species, including: 105 Lesser Yellow-legs (1 flock of 80); 3 Knots (unusual inland); 10 Pectoral Sandpipers (early); 8 Dowitchers (2nd refuge record); 2 Stilt Sandpipers (unusual); and 1 Sanderling (4th or 5th inland Alabama record). On Oct. 15, at the same place, he observed an **Avocet** (shot Oct. 22) and 10 Red-backed Sandpipers (1st Refuge record). The Avocet was seen in Louisiana also, for the 5th time in the present century: on Oct. 23, a sportsman collected 2 birds along the Red River, 3 miles south of Shreveport, from an unprecedented flock of 75 (*fide* Daigre and Wright). The Solitary Sandpiper, usually a common transient at Pensacola, went unobserved the entire season; but the shorebird migration there included several rarities: 1 White-rumped Sandpiper, the only one ever seen in fall, Sept. 18, and 1 Buff-breasted Sandpiper, the 1st in 10 years (Weston); small numbers of Red Phalaropes in Gulf off Pensacola, Nov. 4 (Gunter)—3rd consecutive winter (Weston). Both the Black and the Caspian Terns exceeded their previous latest occurrence at Baton Rouge, being present on Oct. 9 and 16, respectively (Moores). At Pensacola, the Cabot's Tern remained until Nov. 9, the latest date on record, and a Sooty Tern, found on Sept. 18 but dead at least a week, was only the 3rd ever known in that area (Weston).

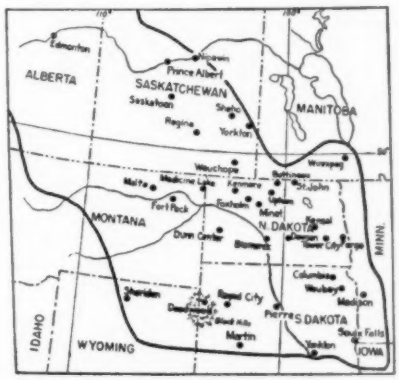
Cuckoos through Hummingbirds.—A single Black-billed Cuckoo at Pensacola, Sept. 16 (Weston), was the first to be found there in many years. The Groove-billed Ani, of sporadic occurrence in Louisiana, was recorded on Oct. 7 at Pilottown. The bird appeared tired or injured but could not be caught. A Short-eared Owl at Pensacola, Nov. 6, is one of the few ever seen there. The Chimney Swift, present by the hundreds at Shreveport on Oct. 25, was gone completely on the morning of the 26th (Jeter), but lingered at Jackson, Miss., until Oct. 28 (Mrs. Davidson). Imhof, commenting on Ruby-throated Hummingbird migrations at Shades Mountain, near Birmingham, mentions counting 5 in as many minutes migrating along the mountain tops, just

beyond the tips of the tree branches, into an 0-5 m.p.h. southwest wind. The species has never been positively identified in Louisiana after Oct. 18; the Rufous Hummingbird has. Thus 4 supposed female Ruby-throats seen at New Orleans on the record date of Nov. 6 (Chase) may possibly have been the latter species.

Flycatchers through Thrushes.—A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Pensacola, Oct. 9, was only the second ever seen there; and there were an exceptional number of occurrences of the species in Louisiana outside the restricted area in which it breeds—the latest at Crowley, Dec. 2 (Shaw and Wallace). The Vermilion Flycatcher, a species which now winters regularly at New Orleans, appeared in the city park again this year, on Oct. 23 (Miss Feingold); 2 were present on Nov. 6 (Chase). The Horned Lark, which in many winters does not reach the region at all, appeared at Birmingham on Nov. 27, when Imhof encountered a flock of 18. The winter of 1949-50 may mark another great invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatches into the Deep South, since they already have been reported widely: Commerce and Dallas, Tex. (O'Neil and Winford); Baines, La. (Bruns); Ben Vines Gap and Birmingham, Ala. (Imhof and Mrs. Dean). The one-day visit of a number of Robins to Pilottown, La., at the mouth of the Mississippi River, on Nov. 26, is basis for speculation as to their point of origin and ultimate destination. As a result possibly of the mild weather, several species of thrushes lingered in various localities later than any previous record: at Birmingham, Wood Thrush and Gray-checked Thrush, Oct. 19, and Olive-backed, Oct. 25, all 14-17 days later than average (Imhof); at Baines, La., Olive-backed, Oct. 12 (Bruns); and at Pensacola, Wood Thrush, Nov. 6 (Weston).

Kinglets through Sparrows.—The great pile-up of migrant land birds at Pensacola, referred to in the opening paragraph, included the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Sept. 21-22, and the Myrtle Warbler, Sept. 22 (Miss Pate), both far ahead of any previous arrival date in that area. Neither species was noted there again until the middle of October. A Black-throated Blue Warbler, collected at Baines, La., Oct. 14 (Bruns) is the 3rd fall record for the species in the State, as well as one of the few records that far west. Other noteworthy occurrences of warblers are: Baines, La., Worm-eating Warbler on Oct. 12, Blue-winged Warbler on Oct. 14, both the latest records for the vicinity; Pensacola, Fla., Golden-winged Warbler on 3 dates (latest, Oct. 16), 2 Chestnut-sided Warblers on Oct. 16, Bay-breasted Warbler on Oct. 23—all rare there (Weston); Birmingham, Ala., Cape May Warbler on Oct. 16, only fall record for the State (Imhof), Tennessee Warbler on Nov. 12, 15 days later than average departure (Perry), Nashville Warbler on Oct. 19, the 4th or 5th record for the State (Imhof). Two Bobolinks on Sept. 24 (Birmingham?) represent only the 3rd known occurrence in Alabama (Imhof). A Baltimore Oriole seen by Weston at Pensacola, Sept. 11, is the 2nd record for the season (see preceding report for the 1st). Seven Purple Finches on Nov. 20, 15 Eastern Towhees on Nov. 6, and a Fox Sparrow on Nov. 13 constitute early first dates at Commerce, Tex. (Mrs. O'Neil). The Spotted Towhee was seen there on Nov. 20 and at Dallas on Nov. 6 (Mrs. Winford). A White-crowned Sparrow at Century, Fla., on Nov. 5 (Mrs. Whigham), is one of the few records for the species in Florida. Imhof recorded the Song Sparrow at Birmingham on Sept. 22, over 3 weeks ahead of the previous earliest date.—GEORGE H. LOWERY, JR., and ROBERT J. NEWMAN, *Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.*

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION.—Most of the Great Plains Region enjoyed the mildest and driest fall for many years. There were reports



of snow in October which generally disappeared. November was mild with temperatures as high as 70 degrees in some of the northern areas. Water levels were down in many places and probably influenced waterfowl and shorebird concentrations. The outstanding feature of the reports was the large flight of geese over most of the region. Also of interest was a noticeable movement of Black-capped Chickadees over North Dakota.

Pelicans and Cormorants.—The White Pelicans began leaving Bowdoin Refuge, Malta, Mont., by Aug. 15 and most were gone by Sept. 20 (Snyder). A juvenile White Pelican banded at Chase Lake, N. Dak., July 14, was caught in a muskrat trap in Miller, Mo., on Aug. 3. At the time of banding, the bird was about three-fourths grown and unfeathered (Nelson). About 4000 White Pelicans were seen on Wentworth Slough, Wentworth, S. Dak., Sept. 17 and 18 (Finley). The Double-crested Cormorant migration occurred during the latter half of September.

Waterfowl.—An increase of Canada Geese was noted, with hunters taking larger numbers than in many years. At least three different size groups of Canada Geese were noted in hunters' bags in the Lower Souris Refuge area, Upham, N. Dak. (Hammond). The main migration wave during Oct. 18, 19 and 20 was the largest noted by Hammond in 13 years at Lower Souris. Sixty thousand Canada Geese were recorded at Sand Lake Refuge on Oct. 28 (Rollings). Between 10,000 and 20,000 White-fronted Geese were seen on Lower Souris Refuge, Oct. 18, 19 and 20. Larger numbers of Snow and Blue Geese stopped in eastern North Dakota than in many years (Latimer). The same observation was made at Sioux Falls, S. Dak. (Donahoe). Low water levels in potholes and sloughs and hunting pressure concentrated the ducks on the larger water areas and on the Fish and Wildlife Service Refuges. Numbers of surface feeding ducks were average while some of the diving ducks, especially the Lesser Scaup, showed increases. An aerial count on Nov. 7 revealed 15,000 Lesser Scaup on Des Lacs Refuge, Kenmare, N. Dak. (Fermanick). Bowdoin Refuge reported a concentration of 25,000 (Snyder). An Old-squaw was taken near Wheaton, Minn., on Oct. 12 (Kobs). Twelve White-winged Scoters observed on Oct. 23 at Bowdoin constitute a first record for that refuge.

Hawks and Eagles.—Hawk populations seemed to remain at low levels. On Sept. 30 an Osprey was observed at LaCreek Refuge, Martin, S. Dak. (Krumm). A Gyrfalcon was seen at Bigstone Lake, S. Dak., on Sept. 8 (Donahoe). Pigeon Hawks were more common than usual in the Kenmare, N. Dak., area (Gammell).

Cranes.—The Sandhill Crane migration was more prolonged than usual this fall and reports covered the period from Sept. 15 to Nov. 12. Eastern Montana reported the largest numbers with Bowdoin Refuge having an estimated 35,000 during migration (Snyder). Fort Peck Game Refuge, Fort Peck, Mont., reported 15,000 during the last few days of September and early October (Garrett).

Shorebirds.—The dry summer in the region exposed many mud flats which attracted larger numbers of shorebirds than usual. Most reports cited increased numbers, especially of Willets, Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs, Dowitchers and Avocets. The migration began the first week in July, continuing through August and September, with stragglers still present well into October. Immature Golden Plover were recorded at Botha, Alta. (Stiller). Wilson's Snipe were less plentiful than usual at Brooks, Alta. (Randall), and were not common at Edmonton, Alta. (Salt). Arrowwood Refuge reported an increase with 22 seen on Sept. 23 (Nelson). Twelve Hudsonian Godwits were observed near Medina, N. Dak., on July 31 (Eastman, Pieper).

Doves and Owls.—Mourning Doves were common in eastern North Dakota and southeastern South Dakota, but fewer than usual were recorded in western North Dakota. A Snowy Owl was recorded at Lower Souris Refuge on Nov. 20 (Hammond). Short-eared Owls continued to be scarce over most of the region.

Woodpeckers, Chickadees, Wrens.—There was a movement of Yellow-shafted Flickers through central North Dakota in mid-September and they were recorded as more common than usual at Wilton, N. Dak. (Gray). A juvenile Red-headed Woodpecker seen at North Portal, Sask., was a first record for that area (Dunbar). There appeared to be a definite movement of Black-capped Chickadees during early November throughout North Dakota.

Waxwings, Orioles.—Bohemian Waxwings were recorded at Saskatoon, Sask., on Oct. 26 (McPherson) and at Wilton, N. Dak., on Nov. 1 (Gray). Two Orchard Orioles were observed at Wilton, N. Dak., on Aug. 23.

Grosbeaks, Buntings, Sparrows.—A male Indigo Bunting was found trapped in a garage window at LaCreek Refuge on Oct. 8 (Krumm). Evening Grosbeaks arrived at Sheho, Sask., on Oct. 1, about 3 weeks earlier than usual (Niven), and one was seen at Lower Souris Refuge on Nov. 5 (Hammond, Glahn). Six Red Crossbills were recorded at Fort Peck Refuge on Nov. 16 (Garrett). A White-winged Crossbill was observed at Saskatoon, Sask., on Oct. 26 (McPherson). Harris's Sparrows were numerous at Wilton, N. Dak., during late September and early October. Large waves were recorded at Kenmare, N. Dak., during the first 3 weeks of October. White-crowned Sparrows showed a decrease in migration at Saskatoon, Sask., and not a single one was recorded at Wilton, N. Dak. They were common at Fargo, N. Dak. (Stevens). Snow Buntings had become common in western North Dakota by November.—DR. AND MRS. R. T. GAMMELL, *Kenmare, N. Dak.*

SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION.—Weather was unusually dry and warm throughout the region with the warmest November on record in Colorado and the dryest on record in many sections of Oklahoma. With the exception of the cold front of Oct. 23-25, which drove spectacular flights of waterfowl south over the east half of the Plains, fall migration was late.

Grebes and Cormorants.—A **Holboell's Grebe** at Mohawk Park, Tulsa, Okla. (Davis) constituted one of the very few records of the species in the State. There were many records of Double-crested Cormorants throughout the region; definitely increasing at Topeka, Kans. (Carson).

Waterfowl.—The period of Oct. 23-25 brought the most tremendous flight of geese across central Kansas, eastern and central Oklahoma and east

central Texas, witnessed in at least 25 years. On Oct. 23, this flight reached Topeka, Kans., (Carson) and Baldwin, Kans. (Boyd). In Oklahoma a dizzling rain on Oct. 22 and 23 was followed by a cold north wind on the 24th. Many flocks of geese were reported by duck hunters and farmers on the 22nd and 23rd, but on the 24th this advance guard was followed by literally thousands of birds sweeping down over a broad front extending from the eastern edge of the Plains west to at least Cherokee and Duncan, Okla. On the night of the 24th flocks of geese milled over practically every Oklahoma town in this vast area, according to reports compiled by Monte Dodson. On Oct. 24th and 25th, farmers, hunters, and bird observers reported large flocks feeding in fields and resting about reservoirs and along rivers. The size of some of these resting groups was unprecedented in many areas. For example, several flocks varying in number from 1000 to 10,000 were estimated near Okmulgee, Okla. (H. B. Greaves), Perkins, Okla. (A. D. Aldrich), and on Lake Carl Blackwell in Payne Co., Okla. (C. Emde). In general, Snow and Blue Geese were reported to outnumber other species, although many flocks of Canada Geese were seen. Hunters reported that geese in general seemed travel-weary, were less wary than usual, and were so thin that they were not very palatable. On Oct. 26th many flocks left Oklahoma but unusually large numbers remained in the State and in northern Texas until the end of the month. Goose populations remained high throughout the season on the Great Salt Plains Wildlife Refuge near Cherokee, Okla. (Van den Akker), with the maximum population of 25,000 birds twice as high as that reported in any previous year. The same cold front brought down a heavy flight of ducks at Topeka, Kans. (Carson) and throughout most of Oklahoma (Dodson). Due to the low water and mild weather relatively few ducks were reported on ponds, but big reservoirs such as those near Denver, Colo., were inhabited by thousands of ducks throughout the period (Rosenbaum). Ruddy Ducks were reported to have increased at Topeka, Kans. (Carson). The Mallard flight was about 2 week late at Lake Carl Blackwell (Baumgartner) and this condition was general throughout Oklahoma (Dodson).

Hawks.—The fall flight was not spectacular according to most observers. Few Red-tails and Rough-legs were seen in the Denver region (Rosenbaum) but more Red-tails were noted at Stillwater than usual (Baumgartner). Unusual records included a Broad-winged Hawk at Morrison, Colo. (Thatcher); several Ospreys and 1 Prairie Falcon at Stillwater, Okla. (Baumgartner); and 1 to 3 Ospreys at Lake Hefner near Oklahoma City throughout the last half of October (I. Ophel).

Gallinaceous Birds.—The Ring-necked Pheasant and the Bob-white showed a definite increase in Oklahoma (DeBusk), reflecting the favorable summer and fall weather conditions. Pheasants were seen at Norman, Okla. (Whitaker) and at Stillwater, Okla. (Baumgartner), the first records in several years.

Cranes and Rails.—Sandhill Cranes were less plentiful at Brule, Nebr. (Benckeser). The lack of reports on rails suggests that these species were either less numerous or moved rapidly through the region.

Plovers and Sandpipers.—A poor flight was reported by several observers. Woodcock at Crete, Nebr., (Rapp) and at Atchinson, Kans., (Nelson) constitute unusual records. Wilson's Snipe were recorded by relatively few observers, suggesting that this species is still low in numbers. A Dowitcher at Norman, Okla., was reported by Whitaker; 23 were seen at Jumbo Reservoir, Colo., (Bowman and Rosenbaum).

Pigeons and Doves.—Mourning Doves were plentiful in Oklahoma in late summer and early fall (DeBusk). Most of the doves left the Stillwater area before Oct. 1, but some doves remained until Nov. 1, reflecting the mild weather conditions (Baumgartner). A Band-tailed Pigeon shot at Alva Okla., constituted the third record of the species in the State (T. C. Carter).

Cuckoos, Kingfishers.—A late record for the Yellow-billed Cuckoo was a bird seen at Newton, Kans., on Oct. 11 (Platt). A Belted Kingfisher at Council Grove, Kans., was the first recorded in that locality by Mrs. Adams in many years.

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers.—A Pileated Woodpecker at Lake Carl Blackwell near Stillwater, Okla., (Wint and Baumgartner) constituted the second recent record in this locality. Two or 3 **Vermilion Flycatchers** were seen at Tulsa, Okla., between Sept. 21 and Nov. 21. A male and a female were seen regularly and a duller bird, possibly an immature of the same species, was seen occasionally. First reported by Dr. and Mrs. A. M. Mery, these new birds for the Oklahoma list were observed by at least 50 members of the Tulsa Audubon Society and other ornithologists.

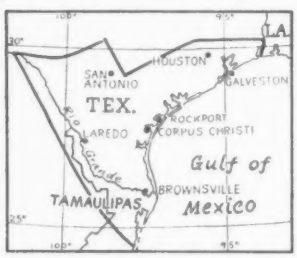
Larks through Thrushes.—Horned Larks were very scarce at Council Grove, Kans., (Adams); population normal elsewhere. Mockingbirds left the Fort Worth, Tex., area about Sept. 15, earlier than usual (Klebold). No Mockingbirds have been seen in the Stillwater, Okla., area since early November (Baumgartner); several normally winter. The breeding Robins left Stillwater, Okla., in late

July with migrating flocks seen on July 26 (DeArment). For the first time in at least 11 years large flocks of Robins migrated into the Stillwater area in late October. At least 500 were seen on Oct. 28 and large flocks were seen regularly through November (Baumgartner). The unusually dry weather in the northern part of the region may account for this early movement. In contrast, Robins were still present in the Denver area in late November (Rosenbaum) suggesting that the mild fall made it possible for the birds to find adequate food.

Kinglets through Warblers—Fifty Ruby-crowned Kinglets were counted at Newton, Kans., Oct. 9 to 11 (Platt); this indicates an unusually heavy migration. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was also recorded by Platt. Starlings are increasing in both numbers and distribution in the Denver region (Rosenbaum, *et al.*). Solitary Vireos were reported at Newton, Kans., (Platt) and at Norman, Okla. (Whitaker). The fall warbler migration was in general uneventful with few waves and few unusual distribution records. The Black-throated Blue Warbler at Brule, Nebr., (Benckeser), and the Am. Redstart at Newton Kans., (Platt) were records of unusual interest.

Blackbirds and Finches.—Meadowlarks and Redwings stayed unusually late according to observers in the northern part of the region. Seven Brewer's Blackbirds at Norman, Okla., on Oct. 31 (Whitaker) constitute the only unusual distribution record. The arrival of the winter finches and sparrows was 1 to 2 weeks late, due again to the mild weather. Species unusually abundant in the fall migration were White-throated Sparrows and White-winged Juncos at Brule, Nebr. (Benckeser) and Lapland Longspurs at Stillwater in November (Baumgartner). A **Green-backed Goldfinch** reported at Clayton, New Mexico, on Nov. 9, apparently is the first record of this species in northeastern New Mexico.—F. M. BAUMGARTNER, *Okla. A. and M. College, Stillwater, Okla.*

SOUTH TEXAS REGION.—The fall migration on the Texas coast comes in spurts. Days will pass with no new records and no perceptible movements among the birds, and then suddenly 15-30 new records will be made, and pronounced movements will be observed within 2 or 3 days. For this report, these peaks of the fall migration were plotted; and then every drop in temperature of as much as 10° (within 2 days) was plotted for Pierre, S. D., and Minneapolis, Minn., from July 15 to Nov. 15. Tabulation of the results follows:



Temperature drop	*Migration peak*
July 13	July 16-17
July 19, 21, 25	July 24
July 29-Aug. 2	July 30-Aug. 2
Aug. 17-19	Aug. 20-23
Aug. 28-31	Aug. 27-29
Sept. 3-6	Sept. 2-4
Sept. 11-13	Sept. 11-12
Sept. 17-19	Sept. 16-18
Sept. 21-23	Sept. 21-25
Sept. 28	Sept. 29
Oct. 3-4	Oct. 2-4
Oct. 6-9	None
Oct. 11-13	Oct. 13-18
Oct. 19-21	Oct. 22-25
Oct. 23-25	Oct. 27-28
Oct. 29-31	Oct. 29-30
Nov. 2	Nov. 3
Nov. 11-15	Nov. 13

Points to note: (1) Not till late in autumn did a drop in temperature affect the Texas coast. (2) Each drop in temperature was reflected almost immediately in a peak of migrants; that is, the migrants moved south very rapidly (where a peak comes before an actual drop is recorded, the drop had begun, but had not yet reached the 10° mark, when the migration arrived on the Texas coast). (3) Except at the end of October, the weather at each migration peak was generally fair. (4) North, northeast, or northwest winds prevailed at time of influx. (5) A drop in temperature, not absolute temperature, seemed to initiate migrations; but absolute temperature may have determined the migration of certain species. (6) There seemed to be a piling up of birds against the coast itself.

A hurricane, with winds moving from the east, and then around toward the north, and ending in the southwest, passed through the region on the night of Oct. 3-4, and brought several extralimital species from the East and the West. They are noted below:

Loons to Man-o'-war-bird—Items to illustrate the effect of temperature falling; check with calendar given above: Common Loon, Rockport, Oct. 22; Eared Grebe, Rockport, Oct. 28; White Pelican, Galveston, July 30; Double-crested Cormorant, Cove, Sept. 25 (earliest fall date on record there); flocks of Water-turkeys migrating south over Cove, Aug. 1, Oct. 16, 17, 19. A Man-o'-war-bird, far from the Gulf, was at Cove with hurricane, Oct. 4.

Herons.—Items to illustrate how departure dates are also connected with falling temperature in the region: last Reddish Egret at Cove and Galveston, Oct. 23; last Green Heron, Houston, Oct. 23;

Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Galveston, Oct. 22; Least Bittern, Oct. 4.

Swans and Geese.—Four Whistling Swans (rare on the Texas coast) appeared at Cove with the weather wave of Nov. 13. A few straggling Canada and Snow Geese arrived about Sept. 25; but the real arrivals commenced with immense flocks on Oct. 15, and continued on a large scale till Oct. 30. White-fronted Geese (from Oct. 23) were a little late.

Ducks.—A flock of several hundred Lesser Scaup remained at Rockport all summer. The arrival of autumn migrants hardly followed the usual pattern of small dabblers first, then large dabblers, then diving ducks. Pintail and Blue-winged Teal arrived early as usual, Aug. 21. But Redhead, Ring-necked, and Canvas-back arrived early, too, Sept. 3. Gadwall, Baldpate, and Green-winged Teal were slightly early on Sept. 25. Buffle-head at Rockport, Oct. 19, were 3 weeks early. Normal arrivals: Shovellers, Oct. 16; Mallard and Black Ducks, Oct. 30; Am. Golden-eye at Cove, Nov. 12-13. The flights of all the dabblers (except Green-winged Teal) appeared about normal.

Hawks.—The hawk migration was good, and about normal in time; but there were no spectacular concentrations. Rough-legged Hawks at Rockport, Oct. 30, and at Galveston, Nov. 2 (Hamilton), are worth noting, as are 2 Broad-wings near Webster (between Houston and Galveston) on Dec. 4 (very late). An immature **Golden Eagle** at Rockport on Oct. 30 (Hagar, Hamilton) is extra-limital—the 1st recorded in 15 years of record-keeping. Ospreys were more numerous and well-distributed than usual, as were Pigeon Hawks (6 of the latter were seen on Galveston Island, Sept. 4).

Cranes.—As is generally known, 33 Whooping Cranes (with 4 young) appeared on the Aransas Refuge this autumn. Sandhill cranes came in early, with 2000 near Bay City, Sept. 25.

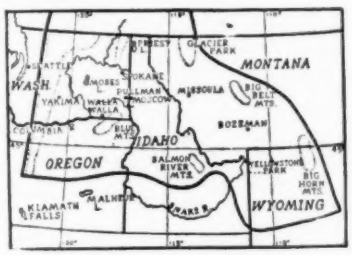
Shorebirds.—The shorebird migration commenced in early July, with Ruddy Turnstones and Solitary Sandpiper at Rockport, July 3; Upland Plover at El Campo, July 5; Greater Yellow-legs at Cove, July 3 (26 birds). Nearly all the other migrant plovers and sandpipers appeared in the waves of July 24 and July 30-Aug. 1. The late arrivals were Woodcock, Rockport, Oct. 15; Wilson's Snipe, Cove, Sept. 25; Hudsonian Curlew, Galveston, Sept. 25; Marbled Godwit, Rockport, Sept. 3. Golden Plover (rare in autumn) were at Rockport, Aug. 1; Buff-breasted Sandpiper (also rare in autumn) were at Rockport, Sept. 4 (10), and at Galveston, Sept. 25 (12).

Gulls and Terns.—Several **California Gulls** were seen at Rockport, Oct. 22-29 (Packard, Hagar). Cabot's Terns (5), which are uncommon on the Texas coast, were on Vingt'un Island (Galveston Bay), July 17. A **Sooty Tern** came into Cove with the hurricane, Oct. 4 (McKay).

Swifts and Hummingbirds.—A **Black Swift,** carefully identified by McKay, was at Cove with the hurricane, Oct. 4. Broad-tailed and Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were at Rockport, Oct. 29. On the morning of Sept. 11, following a night of rain, and with the passage of a cold front and a northeast wind, Emmett Brunson (Rice Institute athletic coach) saw thousands of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds migrating southward along Padre Island, a few hundred yards back from the surf. As an experiment, he counted 100 seen from his car in 13 minutes.

Perching Birds.—With well over 100 species of migrant passerine species reported for the season, only scattered comments are possible here. A **Violet-green Swallow** feeding with other swallows at Cove, Oct. 4, the day of the hurricane, is extra-limital (McKay). There was an especially heavy migration of Brown Thrashers at Rockport, Oct. 5; and a **Sennett's Thrasher** (Mrs. Braman) at Victoria, Nov. 30, is extra-limital. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were more numerous at Cove than ever before in autumn; and a Veery there, Oct. 2-9, was the second fall record. Warblers that are regular spring migrants, but that do not regularly appear in fall (and did not appear this fall): Worm-eating, Golden-winged, Cerulean, Bay-breasted. Rose-breasted Grosbeak is another regular spring migrant that does not appear in fall. The last Blue Grosbeaks reported were on Sept. 27, and the last Indigo Buntings, Oct. 30. The last Dickcissel at Cove was Oct. 9, but a large flock was seen at Smithville, Oct. 20. The winter sparrows came in scatteringly at different times and places. Most species appeared between Oct. 10 and Nov. 1. Henslow's Sparrows came later (Nov. 9); Field Sparrow came early (Sept. 25).—GEORGE G. WILLIAMS, *The Rice Institute, Houston, Tex.*

PALOUSE-NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAINS REGION.—Late summer and early fall brought nothing unusual in weather or other conditions affecting bird-life. Then, about the middle of October a sudden cold spell with snow in western Montana, northern Washington and northern Idaho speeded up migration noticeably. A little later the weather moderated and continued unusually moderate until mid-December, before anything like winter weather occurred in this region. Because of these conditions many birds remained longer than usual, and migration seems to have been slowed down.



Thomas D. Burleigh from northern Idaho reported that transients were scarcer than usual, and that they did not linger as long as ordinarily. This was especially true of warblers, which were observed in small numbers only.

D. E. Payne from Hood River, Oreg., along the Columbia River flyway, reported shorebirds common during October. He noted many shorebirds, including yellow-legs and dowitchers; also warblers during the early part of October, with decreasing numbers later during the month.

The following list is a synopsis of the fall departure dates for a number of birds from the Moscow, Idaho, area, compiled from observations by Thomas D. Burleigh: Sora, Aug. 16; Black-bellied Plover, Aug. 13; Spotted Sandpiper, Sept. 12; Solitary Sandpiper, Sept. 12; Greater Yellow-legs, Sept. 24 (arrival Aug. 2); Lesser Yellow-legs, Aug. 2 to Sept. 1; Pectoral Sandpiper, Aug. 19 to Sept. 17; Least Sandpiper, one record, Aug. 24; Western Sandpiper, Aug. 19; Avocet, Aug. 19; Ring-billed Gull, Aug. 2-Oct. 21; Black Tern, July 31-Aug. 2.

Also Common Nighthawk, Sept. 18; Vaux's Swift, Sept. 10; Lewis's Woodpecker, Aug. 16-Sept. 12; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Sept. 25; Eastern Kingbird, Sept. 1; Western Kingbird, Aug. 19; Traill's Flycatcher, Sept. 1 (specimen); Hammond's Flycatcher, Oct. 2 (specimen) late; Western Wood Pewee, Sept. 19; Olive-sided Flycatcher, Sept. 2; Violet-green Swallow, Oct. 4; Bank Swallow, Aug. 24; Rough-winged Swallow, Aug. 19; Barn Swallow, Sept. 17; Cliff Swallow, Aug. 24.

Also House Wren, Sept. 26; Catbird, Sept. 15; Varied Thrush, first seen at Moscow, Oct. 20 (winters); Hermit Thrush, Sept. 7-Oct. 7; Olive-backed Thrush, Sept. 1; Veery, Sept. 6; Mountain Bluebird, Nov. 10; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Oct. 8; Am. Pipit, Sept. 27-Oct. 11.

Also Solitary Vireo, Sept. 20; Red-eyed Vireo, Sept. 7; Warbling Vireo, Sept. 20; Orange-crowned Warbler, Oct. 1-Dec. 22; Yellow Warbler, Sept. 1; Audubon's Warbler, Oct. 8-Dec. 9; Townsend's Warbler, Sept. 9; Yellow-throat, Sept. 10; Yellow-breasted Chat, Sept. 10; Pileolated Warbler, Aug. 15-Sept. 28.

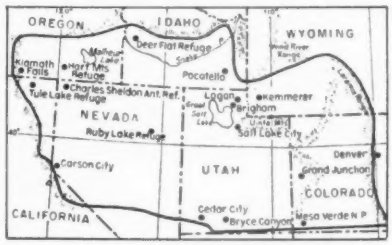
Also Am. Redstart, Sept. 4; Bullock's Oriole, Aug. 13; Brewer's Blackbird, Oct. 9; Brown-headed Cowbird, Aug. 5; Western Tanager, Sept. 17; Black-headed Grosbeak, Aug. 29; Lazuli Bunting, Sept. 10; Cassin's Finch, Sept. 18; Spotted Towhee, Sept. 21.

Also Savannah Sparrow, Oct. 14; Lark Sparrow, Sept. 12; Slate-colored Junco (2 records) Oct. 2 and Oct. 23; Tree Sparrow, Nov. 8 (winters); Chipping Sparrow, Oct. 3; White-crowned Sparrow, Aug. 29 (winters); Golden-crowned Sparrow, (5 records) Sept. 19-Oct. 9; Fox Sparrow, disappeared in late August; Lincoln's Sparrow, Sept. 4-Sept. 29.

Possibly the most outstanding record for the fall was a **Tennessee Warbler** recorded Sept. 13 (and collected to verify the identification). This is apparently the first record of this species for Idaho.

In the southeastern corner of Washington and northeastern corner of Oregon, fall migration seemed to be much more dull than usual. Birds lingered longer, and no striking movements appeared. Ducks and geese were plentiful during October and November, but most species moved on by the early part of December.—ERNEST S. BOOTH, *Walla Walla College, College Place, Wash.*

GREAT BASIN—CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.—The weather over most of the region was abnormally hot and dry during August and throughout most of September. The month of October was somewhat cold and stormy and the first snow fell in the mountains and at the higher elevations about Oct. 20. This snowfall was not heavy and the weather moderated again. The month of November was mild, with above normal temperatures. The first freeze-up and snowfall in the valleys occurred on Dec. 10. This cold front from the north just about completed the fall migration through this region.



Grebes and Pelicans.—Only one report of the Horned Grebe was received for the period; that from Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Armagast, who observed 2 of these birds on Oct. 16 near Alamosa, Colo. They also reported 4 Eared Grebes last seen Nov. 6, and 3 Pied-billed Grebes on Nov. 3 in this same general area. Eared Grebes were noted throughout the summer at Bear River Refuge, and the peak concentration of 150 was reached on Oct. 16. On Nov. 28 a total of 35 were observed. John E. Schwartz reported a concentration of 75 Eared Grebes on Oct. 7 at the Sheldon Antelope Refuge in northern Nevada. C. W. Lockerbie observed 25 Eared Grebes at Farmington Bay, Utah, on Oct. 8. E. C. D. Marriage reported 5 Eared Grebes on a pond near Carson, Nev., Aug. 17; he suggests that they probably nested in that area. He also reported 1 Western Grebe observed on Nov. 29 in this same general area. Western Grebes were common at Bear River Refuge all summer and fall; the peak concentration of 1500 was reached about Nov. 1; only 4 were observed on Nov. 28. On this same date, 40 Pied-billed Grebes

were observed on the Refuge. White Pelicans were abundant all summer and fall at the Bear River Refuge; 4000 were estimated on Sept. 30; the last observed about Nov. 15. C. W. Lockerbie reported 150 White Pelicans at Farmington Bay on Oct. 8, and Dr. Oliver K. Scott observed 1 at Pathfinder Reservoir, Wyoming, on Oct. 16.

Cormorants, Herons and Ibis.—Double-crested Cormorants nested at Bear River Refuge as usual, and a peak concentration of 550 was reached, Sept. 30; by Nov. 28 only 2 or 3 remained. On Oct. 8, Lockerbie reported 50 at Farmington Bay, Utah. Two Great Blue Herons were reported at Sheldon National Antelope Refuge on Nov. 30 (J.E.S.); 1 near Carson, Nev., Nov. 29 (E.C.D.M.). At Bear River Refuge 175 were observed on Sept. 1, and 30 on Nov. 28 (V.T.W.). A large concentration of Snowy Egrets, estimated at 2000, was observed in the vicinity of Farmington Bay, Utah, by Kenneth Tanner on Sept. 6. Lockerbie reported less than 100 remaining on Sept. 11, and only 10 observed, Oct. 8. At B.R.R. an estimated 2000 were present on Sept. 1, and 5 were observed as late as Nov. 28. A migrating flight of White-faced Ibis was reported by Bill Bader near Decker Lake, Utah, on Sept. 2, when he observed 9 successive flocks of about 500 birds each passing by, flying very high. The White-faced Ibis population at the Bear River Refuge was estimated at 1800 on Aug. 15, and on Sept. 30 only 2 were noted. The Black-crowned Night Herons were present in about the usual numbers at the B.R.R.; an estimated 200 were present on Sept. 1, and 75 were observed Nov. 28.

Waterfowl.—Sixteen Whistling Swans were reported at Sheldon National Antelope Refuge, Oct. 27, and a few still present, Nov. 30 (J.E.S.). At the B.R.R., Whistling Swans appeared to be more abundant this fall than for a number of years; at the peak of the fall migration, about Nov. 15, it was estimated that there were 16,000 swans on the Refuge and immediate surrounding area. The Canada Geese were represented by the rare or Great Basin Canada Goose at B.R.R. in about the usual numbers, estimated at 2600 on Nov. 28. The northern breeding, smaller subspecies, or Lesser Canada Goose, appeared to be more abundant; several flocks, estimated in all at about 3000 birds, were observed on Nov. 15 on the greasewood knolls and mud flats in the northwest part of the Refuge. E. C. D. Marriage reported that heavy rains in western Nevada on Nov. 9 had the effect of driving many flocks of Canada Geese and other birds on south, and no concentration was noted in the vicinity of Carson City. He estimated 2000 Canada Geese present in November. At Sheldon Antelope Refuge 250 Great Basin Canada Geese were present, Nov. 1, and 150 estimated, Nov. 30; also 125 Lesser Canada Geese were observed, Oct. 26, and 26 were noted on Nov. 23 (J.E.S.). William O. Deshler reported a concentration of approximately 3000 Canada Geese along the Bear River in the vicinity of Cokeville, Wyom.; peak concentration was reached about Nov. 10. Two small flocks of Snow Geese, estimated at 50 birds, were noted by Kenneth Tanner at Farmington Bay, Utah, Oct. 13. At B.R.R., the fall migration of Snow Geese reached its peak near Nov. 15 when 9500 were estimated on the area; some were still present, Dec. 1. Dr. Scott reported a concentration of approximately 1200 Canada Geese and 6 Lesser Snow Geese at Pathfinder Reservoir, Wyoming, on Oct. 16. E. C. D. Marriage reported the poorest waterfowl hunting season in the past 10 years near Carson, Nev. Due to the heavy storm on Nov. 9, most of the local ducks moved out, and the northern birds that followed passed on by in the warm clear weather that followed. William O. Deshler reported that the concentration of ducks in the Cokeville area was much later than last year. He estimated the local Mallard population at 1500 birds and the peak migration at approximately 5000. Some Mallards winter in this area on the warm springs and sloughs. At B.R.R. the peak Mallard population was estimated at 60,000 birds about Sept. 1; by Nov. 28 the population had dropped to an estimated 20,000. At Sheldon Antelope Refuge 500 were noted on Oct. 10, and a few remained through Nov. 30. Following are a few peak concentration figures for the more common species of ducks at Bear River Refuge: Gadwall, 37,000, Oct. 16; Baldpate, 87,000, Oct. 16; Pintail, 500,000, Sept. 1; Green-winged Teal, 220,000, Oct. 16; Cinnamon Teal, 4500, Aug. 31; Shoveller, 55,000, Oct. 16; Redhead, 26,000, July 11; Canvas-back, 34,000, Oct. 16; Lesser Scaup, 4000, Nov. 1; Ruddy, 1200, Oct. 16; Am. Merganser, 400, Nov. 28, and Red-breasted Merganser, 2000, Nov. 1. One Old-squaw was taken by a hunter at B.R.R., Nov. 11.

Vultures, Hawks, and Eagles.—Lockerbie reported 22 Turkey Vultures in one flock, south of Beaver, Utah, Aug. 18. He reported Nighthawks abundant in Beaver County; a count made on Aug. 20 between Milford and Beaver totaled 187 birds. Near Carson City, Nev., 7 Turkey Vultures were observed on Oct. 14 by E. C. D. Marriage. Swainson's Hawk and Ferruginous Hawk were reported as fairly common summer and autumn residents at Sheldon Antelope Refuge; also Golden Eagles were more numerous than for the past 4 years. Mr. and Mrs. Armagast reported flushing a Golden Eagle from the edge of the road with their car and coming within a few feet of hitting it; this happened on the Cochetopa Pass road in the San Juan Mts. Two Bald and 4 Golden Eagles were observed at B.R.R., Nov. 30; 6 Rough-legged Hawks and 2 Peregrine Falcons were observed on the same date.

Rails and Coots.—E. C. D. Marriage reported both Virginia and Sora Rails on the increase and nesting at the Buckbrush Gun Club along the

Carson River in Nevada. He also noted 1 Florida Gallinule trapped on Nov. 29 near Hot Springs, Nev. John E. Schwartz reported 46 Sandhill Cranes at Sheldon Refuge, Nov. 30. He also noted 150 Coots, Oct. 6, at the same Refuge.

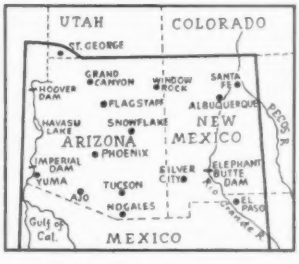
Shorebirds, Gulls, and Terns.—At Sheldon Refuge, Nev., Schwartz reported 12 Killdeers and 8 Dowitchers on Oct. 7. At Farmington Bay, Utah, Lockerbie noted 1000 Avocets on Sept. 11, and 14 on Nov. 13; Black-necked Stilts, 100 on Sept. 11; Wilson's Phalarope, 100 on Sept. 11; Ring-billed Gull, 10 on Aug. 14 and 1000, Oct. 30; Forster's Tern, 15 on Sept. 11; Black Tern, 100 on Aug. 14. The following are a few figures on peak concentrations of shorebirds as observed and estimated at the B.R.R.: Killdeer, 100, Nov. 28; Long-billed Curlew, 15, Aug. 15; Lesser Yellowlegs, 150, Sept. 15; Dowitcher, 7500, Sept. 16; Western Sandpiper, 6000, Aug. 30; Marbled Godwit, 3500, Sept. 1; Avocet, 6500, Aug. 15; Black-necked Stilt, 5000, Aug. 15; California Gull, 2500, Aug. 15; Ring-billed Gull, 1800, Nov. 1; Franklin's Gull, 150, Sept. 1; Forster's Tern, 4000, Aug. 15; Caspian Tern, 100, Sept. 1; Black Tern, 3000, Sept. 1. The fall migration of shorebirds through the B.R.R. appeared to be about normal with the exception of the various species of sandpipers; they were not so abundant as in previous years.

Doves.—J. E. Schwartz reported Mourning Doves relatively numerous until late August, and that most flocks had departed by Sept. 15 from the Sheldon Refuge. An increase in numbers was noted by E. C. D. Marriage, who advised that they were very common along the Carson River in Nevada. Mourning Doves were reported as quite common in the San Luis Valley, Colo.

Passerine Birds.—Several hundred Violet-green and Cliff Swallows, with a sprinkling of Rough-winged and Barn Swallows, were observed at Beaver, Utah, Aug. 15 to 22 (C.W.L.). A large concentration of Barn Swallows was noted at B.R.R. during mid-September; the number estimated at 9000. Twelve hundred Cliff Swallows were observed at B.R.R. on Aug. 15. Carl E. Bauer observed a flock of 13 migrating Am. crows on Oct. 11, passing over Salt Lake City. E. R. Wilson noted between 200 and 300 Am. Crows passing over his home at Centerville, Utah, on Oct. 18. Mountain Bluebirds were last noted on Oct. 29 at the Sheldon Refuge in Nevada (J.E.S.). One Loggerhead Shrike was observed at Pagosa Springs, west of Continental Divide, Nov. 5, (R.M.A.). E. R. Wilson reported a large migration of Robins over his farm at Centerville, Utah, on Oct. 18. He stated that flock after flock continued their flight south all day and that undoubtedly several thousand passed by. The flight preceded a heavy snowstorm the following day. Sixty Robins were observed in the San Luis Valley, Nov. 6, and 100 just west of Wolf Creek Pass and the Continental Divide, Nov. 5 (R.M.A.). Migrating Nashville, yellow and Macgillivray's Warblers were observed at several points in southwestern Utah, Aug. 15 to 22; a flock of about 30 was seen in a weed lot at Milford, Utah (C.W.L.). Oregon Juncos were common at the Sheldon Refuge during October; 75 were observed on the 10th, and 15 on Oct. 22nd. Fifteen white-crowned Sparrows were also observed on Oct. 15, and 2 on Oct. 22 (J.E.S.). T. A. Dewey reported an abundance of Gray-headed and Oregon Pink-sided Juncos on the east foothills at Salt Lake City, during the first week in October. Rex B. Snow observed a large migration of White-crowned Sparrows east of Peoa, Utah, on Oct. 22. He reported flocks of from 50 to 75 birds rising about him as he climbed up the mountainside, until he had flushed over 1500 birds from their morning search for food under a light cover of snow. Seventy-seven Audubon's Warblers were noted near Salt Lake City, Oct. 9, and Oregon Juncos were common on Oct. 10 (C.W.L.). Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Armagast reported 2 White-breasted Nuthatches, Oct. 16, and 3 Clark's Nutcrackers, Nov. 5, near Alamosa, Colo.

Correction.—Delete from the report on the nesting season (Vol. 3, No. 5, p. 246) the sentence which starts 12 lines from the bottom of the second column and which reads: "Lockerbie reported long-billed curlew, solitary sandpiper, willet, knot, western sandpiper, least sandpiper, pectoral sandpiper, avocet and Wilson's phalarope nesting near Salt Lake City."—VANEZ T. WILSON and ROSS H. NORR, *Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Brigham, Utah.*

SOUTHWEST REGION.—The weather was much warmer than usual, especially during November, and was broken only by two cold fronts of any magnitude, both appearing in October and being most marked in the western part of the region. There was no unusual amount of precipitation.



Loons and Pelicans.—An **Arctic Loon** was seen on Bob Francie's Lake, about 20 miles east of Showlow, Ariz., Oct. 23 (R. Gambrel), and another was found in the Bill Williams Delta, Havasu Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Ariz., Oct. 27 (Monson). Seven hundred White Pelicans were reported from Mittry Lake, near Yuma, Ariz., Aug. 31, together with 2 Brown Pelicans (A. Halloran).

Waterfowl.—Earliest Canada Geese reported were 27 at Topeka, Havasu L. Refuge, Ariz., Oct. 15 (M.), and 30 on the Bosque del Apache Nat'l.

Wildlife Refuge, San Antonio, New Mexico., Oct. 18 (J. Sadosuk). Approximately 1400 were present at each locality, Nov. 30. a Blue Goose seen on the Bosque Refuge, Nov. 6 (R. J. Fleetwood, M. W. Pulich) was still present on Nov. 30. A pair of **Black-bellied Tree Ducks** with 16 newly-hatched young was seen near Tucson, Ariz., about Sept. 12 (D. Clarke), and Sept. 19 (A. R. Phillips); they were not present in mid-October (A. and W. Foerster). This is the first breeding record of this duck for Arizona, and is but the third record of its occurrence in the State. Nearly 80,000 Mallards were present on the Bosque Refuge, Nov. 1, a sizeable increase over previous years (R. J. F.). The Pintail flight in the Colorado River Valley was average in numbers, but earlier than usual, reaching a peak of 5100 at Topock, Aug. 29 (M.). Migration of the same species on the Bosque Refuge, in the Rio Grande valley, did not begin until Sept. 1, and did not reach its peak of 35,000 until Nov. 1 (R.J.F.). Buffleheads were late in making their fall appearance, not arriving on the Bosque Refuge until Nov. 6 (R.J.F., M., W. P.), and at Topock until Nov. 16 (M.). A **Surf Scoter** was found on Havasu Lake, Oct. 23, the second Arizona record (M.). The Red-breasted Merganser was unreported from the Bosque Refuge, but a concentration of 350 was noted in the Bill Williams Arm of Havasu Lake, Oct. 27 (M.).

Hawks.—Several Black Vultures were seen with Turkey Vultures at Tumacacori Nat'l. Monument, Ariz., Oct. 24 (B. Jackson). A Goshawk was seen near Pecos, New Mexico, Nov. 12 (L. Lee). A Zone-tailed Hawk was still present in the Hualpai Mts., Ariz., Sept. 16 (A.R.P.). A pair of Bald Eagles was seen at Blue Pt. on the Salt R. just above its junction with the Verde R., Ariz., Sept. 24 (A.R.P., L. Yaeger), and 4 were seen near Picacho, Calif., on the Imperial Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, Oct. 21 (J. Gretzinger, J. Knox). A Prairie Falcon was noted molesting pigeons in a back yard at Albuquerque, New Mexico, Nov. 16 (L. Arnold).

Quail.—The Mearns's Quail appears to have staged a marked increase in the Huachuca Mts., Ariz. (C. Wallmo).

Cranes and Rails.—A flock of 7 Sandhill Cranes was seen along the Colorado River near Needles, Calif., Oct. 16, where they are rare during the fall (M.). An immature Virginia Rail was accidentally killed at the Bosque Refuge, Sept. 1 (R.J.F.); this bird was sufficiently developed that it was probably a migrant rather than a locally-reared bird. Another was seen on the Refuge, Nov. 30 (R.J.F.). The Sora was common at Topock after Aug. 29 (M.).

Shorebirds.—Late Black-bellied Plover records were 1 seen at Topock, Oct. 20 (M.), and 2 at Burford L. on the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, New Mex., Oct. 26 (R.J.F.). Wilson's Snipes were present in their usual numbers, which are scanty in this region; the earliest record was of 2 on the Colorado River Indian Reservation, near Parker, Sept. 18 (M.). Two Long-billed Curlews were seen near Yuma, Oct. 3 (M.); 87 were seen at Fabens, Tex., Oct. 15 (W. Wimberlys); and 1 was seen flying low over Tucson, Nov. 3 (R. Reed). Four Upland Plover were observed at Burford L., Oct. 27 (T. Davis, R.J.F.). A **Red-backed Sandpiper** was seen along the Rio Grande, 5 miles northwest of El Paso, Tex., Sept. 9 (G. Burrows), and another was noted near Anthony, New Mex., Oct. 29 (M. Keefer, L. McBee. Mrs. Rose). These are the first records for this part of the Rio Grande valley. A **Stilt Sandpiper** was seen at Blue Pt., Sept. 24 (A.R.P., L. Y.). the second Arizona record. A Red Phalarope was observed at Topock, Oct. 19, and 2 were seen at Havasu L., Oct. 23, the second and third Colorado River valley records of this mostly maritime species.

Gulls and Terns.—Three Sabine's Gulls were seen at Havasu L., Sept. 23, and 1 was present at Topock, Oct. 2 (M.). Two Forster's Terns on Havasu L., Oct. 16, were unusually late (M.).

Pigeons through Trogons.—A late Band-tailed Pigeon nest containing a large squab was found in the Huachuca Mts., Oct. 10 (C.W.). Mourning and White-winged Doves were reported usually common throughout most of their range, but were not as common as they were last year on the Bosque Refuge (R.J.F.). Two White-wings were observed at Tempe, Ariz., Sept. 26 or 27 (L. Y.). and 1 at the same place, Oct. 29, probably wintering, near a cage of foreign Doves (A.R.P., L. Y.). A Spotted Owl was noted near Grants, New Mex.. Sept. 2 (Lee). Poor-wills were still common and active north of Benson, Ariz., Nov. 11 (W. Chavin), and 1 was seen there, Nov. 25 (R. Hock). and 1 was still present on the Saguaro National Monument, Ariz., on December 1 (J. Marshall). Four Western Nighthawks were seen at Topock, Oct. 12 (M.), and 2 (these possibly Texas Nighthawks?) at Salome, Ariz., Nov. 9 (M., W. P.). A Vaux's Swift was seen at Wickieup, Ariz., Oct. 18. and 2 more the following day; 1 was seen at Topock, Oct. 19 (M.). These were unusually late, and were seen with migrating Violet-green Swallows. A late Rufous Hummingbird was seen at Cottonwood Cliffs of the Aquarius Mts., Ariz., Oct. 11 (A.R.P.). The last Coppery-tailed Trogon was seen in the Huachuca Mts., Sept. 20 (C. W.).

Woodpeckers.—A Yellow-shafted Flicker was found at Trout Creek, in the upper Big Sandy R. valley, Ariz., Oct. 13 (A.R.P.), and another was seen in Kyle Canyon of the Charleston Mts., Nev., Oct. 21 (A.R.P., W. P.). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were unusually early in arriving, as shown by the following: 1 in the lower Santa Catalina Mountains, Ariz., Sept. 23 (J.M.); 1 at Blue Pt., Sept. 24 (A.P., L.Y.); and 6 at Trout Creek, Sept. 29 (A.R.P.). A female Williamson's

Sapsucker was seen near San Xavier Mission, Ariz., Nov. 10 (A.R.P.); it is rare in that locality.

Flycatchers.—An **Eastern Kingbird** was observed on the Colorado River Reservation, Sept. 4 and 11 (M.). The West Mexican Kingbird was still present at Tucson, Sept. 19 (A.R.P.). Two Cassin's Kingbirds were noted in the Bill Williams Delta, Sept. 20, the first record for the immediate lower Colorado R. Valley (M.). Two Arizona Crested Flycatchers were still present at **Blue Pt.,** Sept. 24 (A.R.P., L. Y.). Hammond's Flycatchers lingered at Wickieup until Oct. 19 (1 seen—A.R.P.); at Tucson until Oct. 21 (1 seen—J.M.).

Swallows.—A heavy late flight of Violet-green Swallows took place in Arizona, Oct. 17 to 22. It was noted in the Big Sandy valley, Oct. 17 to 19 (A.R.P.), with a few individuals scattered to the Colorado R. at Topock, Oct. 19 to 20, where it is very rare in the fall (M.). The flight was observed at Tucson, Oct. 18 to 22 (A. F., W. F.), and one was even seen at the northern locality of Snowflake, Ariz., on the extreme late date of Oct. 20 (L. Levine). A Purple Martin was seen on the Colorado R. Reservation, Sept. 11 (M.).

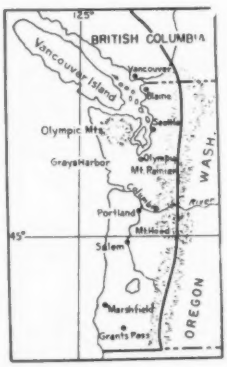
Crows through Pipits.—Several thousand Am. Crows were present at Albuquerque in November (L. A.). A flock of about 500 had found a piñon nut crop on several square miles of the Apache Nat'l. Forest near Luna, New Mex., Nov. 12, and were proceeding to harvest it all before moving on (C. Bennett). More than 120 were observed near Flagstaff, Ariz., Nov. 7 to 13, apparently migrating (M. Wetherill). A very early Sage Thrasher was seen at Vidal Jct., Calif., Aug. 29 (M.). Two Hermit Thrushes were seen at El Paso, Sept. 4 (J. and F. Camp). Several migrants were noted in the Hualpai Mts., Sept. 14 to 15; migrants were very common in the Huachucas, Sept. 21 (L. Hargrave, A.R.P.); but no definite lowland records were obtained in Arizona until Sept. 29, when 2 or 3 were seen at Trout Creek (A.R.P.). A **Sprague's Pipit** was definitely identified in a dry sandy area near Topock, Sept. 27.

Wood Warblers.—A **Black and White Warbler** was seen at La Mesa, N. Mex., Oct. 1 to 3 (Mrs. Wright), evidently a first State record. An early Nashville Warbler was noted at Topock, Aug. 12 (M.); 1 was seen in the Santa Catalina Mts., Aug. 19, and it was common near Tucson, Aug. 20 to 22 (A.R.P.). Three Yellow Warblers were still present at Trout Creek, Oct. 1 (A.R.P.). A **Magnolia Warbler** was found in the Bill Williams Delta, Oct. 5; it is the first Arizona record (M.). A very early Audubon's Warbler was seen in the Delta, Sept. 2 (M.). A Townsend's Warbler was still present in the upper Charleston Mts., Oct. 22 (A.R.P., W. P.). At El Paso, 2 Northern Water-thrushes were reported on Aug. 23 (Mrs. Andresen, G. B., L. M.), and a third was seen on Sept. 9 (G. B., Camps). One was also seen at Snowflake, Aug. 27 (Levine). A late Macgillivray's Warbler was observed at Wickieup, Oct. 18 to 19 (A.R.P.), and it was observed even later (possibly wintering?) in the lower Santa Catalina Mts., Nov. 14 (M. Nichols). The Pileolated Warbler was noted unusually early at Havasu L., Aug. 9 (M.), and unusually late at Wickieup, Oct. 20 (A. P.). An Am. Redstart was seen at El Paso, Sept. 13 (Mrs. Andresen). Painted Redstarts were seen at Blue Pt., Sept. 24 (A.R.P., L. Y.), and at Trout Creek, Sept. 29 (A.R.P.), unusual dates and unusual localities.

Tanagers.—Three late Western Tanagers, including 1 adult male, were seen in the Bill Williams Delta, Oct. 5 (M.). A male **Scarlet Tanager** was recorded at Wickieup, Oct. 19 A. P.). Late Summer Tanagers were 1 in the Bill Williams Delta, Oct. 5 (M.), and 1 at Trout Creek, Oct. 6 (A.R.P.).

Finches and Sparrows.—At least 2 Indigo Buntings were seen at El Paso, Sept. 5 (Camps, L. M.). A **Varied Bunting** was taken on the east side of the Mohave Mts., Ariz., Oct. 27 (A.R.P.). A **Dickcissel** was seen near Tucson, Aug. 21 (H. Jeter, A.R.P.), and another on the Colorado R. Reservation, Sept. 25 (M.). A White-throated Sparrow was observed at Blue Pt., Oct. 29 (A.R.P.). Extremely far western records for the Chestnut-collared Longspur were: 2 seen at Trout Creek, Oct. 4 (A.R.P.), and 5 present in the Bill Williams Delta, Oct. 5 (M.).—GALE MONSON, *Havasu Lake Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, Parker, Ariz.*

NORTH PACIFIC COAST REGION.—August and September were much warmer and drier than normal, except Sept. 14-21, which was cool, with showers. October averaged 3° below normal, with an early cold snap 18th to 20th, (except the last 5 days above normal); precipitation below normal. November was warmer than normal, with some rain and high winds.



Loons through Herons.—Common Loons first came to the Portland area, Oct. 30 (Millette), and north of Bellingham, Wash., Sept. 28 (Grove). They made a better showing at Comox, B. C., than earlier this year, with 12 seen, Oct. 14. Arctic Loons did not show up in usual large numbers (Pearse); were seen at Blaine, Wash., Oct. 2 (Grove). At Comox, 60 Red-necked Grebes came in, Sept. 26. Horned Grebes were well up to average, and still passing through in numbers, Nov. 14. Western Grebes were scarce, except for an early migration of 1500±, Sept. 7

(Pearse). A large flock of Westerns were at Bellingham, Sept. 28 (Grove). Six Pink-footed Shearwaters, Oct. 5, on central coast of Oregon, were late (Evenden). Many Sooty, and 1 Slender-billed Shearwaters were seen in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Nov. 5 (Pearse). An unusual sight was 25 Fork-tailed and 90-100 Leach's Petrels in E. Strait of Juan de Fuca, July 14 (Clark). White Pelicans (68) were seen in Lane County, Ore. (rare west of Cascades), Sept. 2 (Evenden). Brandt's Cormorants were coming in north of Bellingham, Sept. 28 (Grove). Pelagic Cormorants came through Comox, Oct. 28 (Pearse). One of 3 Green Herons was collected at Snohomish, Wash., Aug. 22 (Eddy). This is slightly farther north than this species has been recorded previously in Washington. Higman saw them there several times in past years. Three Am. Egrets, rare west of the Cascades, were seen in Lane Co., Oreg., Sept. 2 (Evenden).

Swans, Geese, Ducks.—Whistling Swans were migrating at Comox, Nov. 14 (Pearse); 6 were seen east of Seattle, Nov. 13 (Hagenstein). Many Canada Geese were noted migrating at Comox, at the end of the period. A great migration passed over Seattle the first two weeks in November; last heard, Nov. 26 (Hagen.). White-fronted Geese were heard over Comox, Aug. 7, and about 50 were seen, Aug. 25 (Pearse). Over 1000 were migrating at Grays Harbor, Wash., Sept. 7 (McMannama), and came to Portland, Sept. 25 (Bartlett). Snow Geese were migrating at Comox, Nov. 14. A late nesting of Mallard was recorded at Seattle, Sept. 10 (Higman). All ducks were few at Comox in early part of period but increased in November. Buffle-head were numerous in October, scarce in November until the 28th, then an unusual number appeared (Pearse). Ducks came in well in the Puget Sound area, and about on time (Eddy, *et al.*). A female Wood Duck was at Green Lake, and a European Widgeon at S. Seattle marshes the last of November (McM., Cannon). An estimated 2000 Surf and White-winged Scoters were at Comox, Oct. 9. Baldpates and Pintails reached the Oregon coast, Oct. 3. Four Blue or Cinnamon Teal (both uncommon west of Mts.) were in Benton Co., and 11 in Lane Co., Ore., Sept. 2 (Evenden). At Portland, Gadwalls arrived, Oct. 23; a European Widgeon, Oct. 15; Baldpates, Sept. 25; Pintails, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Sept. 17; Shovellers, Sept. 25; Ring-necked Ducks, Canvas-back and Buffle-heads, Oct. 23; Ruddy Duck, Sept. 25 (Ore. Aud. Soc.). About 500 Hooded Mergansers were seen at Comox, Oct. 27 (Pearse).

Grouse, Cranes.—Blue Grouse seemed fewer at Comox, but Ruffed Grouse were evidently on the upgrade. Sandhill Cranes (*canadensis*) seemed to be doing well. About 300 were on Sauvies Is., near Portland, Oct. 10 (Haldeman, Bartlett).

Shorebirds.—Shorebirds showed up well throughout the region. A Snowy Plover, Sept. 10, was a first for the Portland area (Bartlett). At Comox, a flock of 40 Killdeer was seen, Oct. 9; Pectoral Sandpipers were above average; Baird's were more numerous, climaxed by a flock of 100, Sept. 19. The rare Stilt Sandpiper was recorded, Sept. 11 (Pearse). An unestimated number of shorebirds lined the ocean beaches near Grays Harbor, Sept. 7, mainly Western Sandpipers and Sanderlings, with lesser numbers of Snowy, Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers. Red-backed Sandpipers were just coming in. Notable were 12 Baird's and 1 rare Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Nov. 11, in very stormy weather, the thousands of shorebirds were mainly Sanderlings and Red-backed Sandpipers, with a large number of Black-bellied Plovers and 2 Red Phalaropes (McM.). Shorebirds were plentiful in migration in the Seattle area. More Yellowlegs stopped at the S. Seattle marshes, the Lesser predominating; last seen, Oct. 10 (Cannon). Western Sandpipers were present in large numbers on beaches of San Juan and Skagit Co., Wash., Aug. 14 (Goodge), and on east shore of Lake Washington, Sept. 28 (Hagenstein). On the northern Oregon coast, Sept. 18, 14 Semipalmated Plovers, 1 Ruddy and 2 Black Turnstones, 3 Wandering Tattlers and 12 Least Sandpipers were seen (McNab, Millette). On the central Oregon coast, 26 Black-bellied Plovers (uncommon) were seen, Oct. 6 (Evenden). Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers, Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers, and Northern Phalaropes were at Portland, Sept. 10-17 (Ore. Aud. Soc.).

Gulls, Terns.—Two Jaegers were noted at Comox. From its size, 1 was thought to be the rare Pomerine (Pearse). One Pomarine was seen, Aug. 23, in Strait of Juan de Fuca (Clark), and 1 on Puget Sound, north of Seattle, Aug. 31 (Cannon). At Comox, the gull population seemed to be poor, with less than usual number migrating. An immature Ring-billed, Sept. 19, and an adult, Sept. 26, were rare. Short-billed Gulls were unusually numerous the first half of period. Bonaparte's Gulls left early (Pearse). They were common in San Juan Is., Wash., Aug. 14 (Goodge). At Green Lake, Seattle, 6 or more Herring, 500-1000 Short-billed (numbers fluctuated), and considerable numbers of California Gulls were around the last of period. At Grays Harbor, Nov. 11, Glaucous-winged, California and Bonaparte's Gulls appeared to be migrating. One imm. Kittiwake was seen (McM.). On the central Oregon coast, Oct. 6, several hundred California and Western Gulls were seen, with 4 Bonaparte's and 3 Heermann's Gulls, and 3 Kittiwakes (Evenden). Ring-billed and Short-billed gulls came to the Portland area, Oct. 15 (Bartlett, Seamon). Three rare Sabine's Gulls were seen off Port Townsend, Wash., Aug. 23; also at Seattle, Aug. 29 (Clark).

Pigeons through Woodpeckers.—Gordon Alcorn thought the Mourning Dove is extending its range

west of the Cascades. A pair was recorded near Bellingham, Sept. 8 (Grove), and reported at Comox, Oct. 6 (Pearse). Nighthawks left eastern Lake Washington, Sept. 11; Black Swifts, Sept. 16, and Rufous Hummingbirds, Sept. 5 (Hagenstein). Kingfishers made some recovery at Comox. Woodpeckers were much fewer than in 1948.

Flycatchers, Swallows.—One Western Kingbird was seen at Yaquina Bay, Ore., Oct. 6 (Evenden). Western Flycatchers, and all Swallows left Comox early. Last dates for Western Flycatchers in the Seattle area were Aug. 13-14, and for Olive-sided, Aug. 11 (Hagenstein, Clark). Two Horned Larks (not common) were seen north of Bellingham, Sept. 28 (Grove). Last date for Violet-green Swallows in Seattle area was Sept. 19; Tree Swallows, Aug. 26; Barn Swallows, Sept. 19; Cliff Swallows and Purple Martins, Sept. 18 (Hagenstein). A flock of 25-30 Violet-green Swallows was seen at Corvallis, Ore., Oct. 8 (Evenden). Cliff Swallows were again a rarity at Comox, after having established a few colonies (Pearse).

Chickadees through Wrens.—Most observers reported a scarcity of resident small birds, and a poor migration. This needs more analysis and future observation, especially in view of the successful nesting season. The unseasonably warm weather in November may have kept the birds from flocking, and in the hinterland, where there were no observers. Black-capped, Chestnut-backed Chickadees (scarce the past 2-3 years) showed an increase at Comox (Pearse); and at Seattle (Cannon). At Comox Red-breasted Nuthatches were very scarce, and Brown Creepers were below numbers of 1948. All observers noted the scarcity of Winter Wrens. The Long-billed Marsh Wren was singing at Medina, east of Seattle, Nov. 13 (Hagenstein).

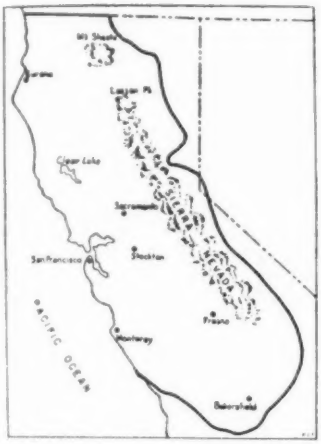
Thrushes, Kinglets, Waxwings.—There was no extensive migration of Robins at Comox. They were not common the first of period at Bellingham (some young seen); about 100 seen, Sept. 13, and none the last of period (Grove). Large flocks were common in Corvallis, Oct. 8, some singing spring song (Evenden). Elizabeth Curtis reported the same for S. Seattle. Varied Thrushes were first seen east of Lake Washington, Nov. 15 (Hagen.); and at Portland, Sept. 25 (Layman). Olive-backed (Russet-backed) Thrushes were last noted in Seattle area, Sept. 7-9 (Hagen., Cannon). Western Bluebirds seemed entirely absent in the Comox area. Only 1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet (usually plentiful in late autumn) was seen (Pearse). Am. Pipits returned to lowlands at Bellingham, Sept. 28 (Grove); Seattle, Sept. 19 (Cannon), and Portland, Sept. 17 (Ore. Aud. Soc.). About 300 Cedar Waxwings at Comox, Nov. 17, were unusually late for a flock (Pearse).

Vireos, Wood Warblers.—The Solitary Vireo was noted at Medina, Sept. 4 (Hagen.), and was singing at Seattle, Sept. 9 (Cannon). Summer visitors and transients of this group left Comox early. Red-eyed Vireos and Orange-crowned Warblers were migrating in high Cascade Mts., Sept. 14 (Cannon). A few young warblers were seen the last of August at Bellingham, where the Black-throated Gray seemed as common as the Yellow; Macgillivray's was seen as late as Sept. 20 (Grove). A Nashville (Calaveras) Warbler was noted in northeastern Kitsap Co., Wash., Aug. 14 (Clark). Last dates for warblers in the Seattle area were: Orange-crowned, Aug. 18; Yellow, Aug. 15; Black-throated Gray, Sept. 4; Yellow-throat, Sept. 11; Wilson's (Pileolated), Aug. 14 (Hagenstein).

Blackbirds, Tanagers.—Brewer's Blackbirds, increasing in the Comox area the past 20 years, are now only holding their own. Last of August a flock of 1500 was seen (Pearse). The last date for Western Tanagers in Seattle area was Sept. 19 (Hagenstein).

Finches, etc.—Evening Grosbeaks were last seen at Medina, Oct. 29. Purple Finches were far below numbers of 1948 at Comox. Stanley Jewett thought the House Finch was becoming more than casual in northwestern Oregon. At Comox, Pine Siskins did not appear until the last of November (much later than usual). Red Crossbills were heard often during the first part of period; disappeared during the last part. Spotted Towhees were far below numbers of 1948. Except for a good migration of Savannahs, migrant sparrows were scarcely recorded (Pearse). So far no Oregon Juncos had come to the Comox area; other observers felt they were the most common small land bird. The last Chipping Sparrow was seen at Medina, Sept. 23 (Hagenstein). What was identified as a Harris's Sparrow, a very rare species in the North Pacific Coast Region, was seen in the Portland area, Oct. 3-11 (J. S. Williams). Two Lincoln's Sparrows were seen at Bellingham, Sept. 18 (Grove), and at Portland, Sept. 10 (Oakes). Song Sparrows at Comox were far less than in 1948. McMannama noted their scarcity north of Bellingham. For a species that stays close to its territory, this may have some significance. A Lapland Longspur at Comox, Oct. 7, was Pearse's 2nd record.—MARTHA R. FLAHAUT, *Washington State Museum, University of Washington, Seattle 5, Wash.*

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION.—Weather in central California from August through November continued generally mild with extremes of temperature at the beginning of the last week of September when the days were hottest of the year and at the end of the third week of October when there was hard frost. The only rain of any consequence came in the first ten day of November, but it was heavy in places. Shorebirds and ducks were as plentiful as in other years with some limitation inland because of lack of water. Land birds continued to be affected adversely by the lack of moisture. All observers, even the ones that live in



places kept wet artificially, noticed the scarcity. This meant early departure of summer birds and late arrival and small numbers of wintering ones. Also resident species continued to decline in numbers

Water Birds

Williams identified Arctic Loons in flight southward past Cypress Point where his counts of looms in half-hour periods were as follows: Nov. 14 (326), 16 (481), 22 (152), and 29 (9). Two reports for Red-necked Grebe are in the Monterey area. The Andersons saw the first on Oct. 1 at Moss Landing, and Williams found 2 together on Nov. 4 in Carmel Bay. Horned Grebes were seen first on Carmel Bay where there were 6 on Nov. 4 (Williams). Green Herons were reported from more places than usual. Mrs. Nielsen saw 9 on Aug. 7 near Santa Cruz. Evenden on Aug. 16 found 1 at Yuba City and 1 at Gray Lodge Refuge. At the mouth of the Carmel River there was 1 on Sept. 10 (Andersons), and on Oct. 2 (Morrow). Mrs. Kelly saw 1 on Nov. 26 in Golden Gate Park. American Egrets were common in the Sacramento Valley from September to November, with larger flocks in the fields after mid-October (Evenden). At Berkeley Aquatic Park many were seen by Pray on Sept. 4, the number decreasing to 2 ten days later. Mrs. Kelly saw 200 on Nov. 4 at Dumbarton Bridge, and Mrs. Nielsen saw 2 at Santa Cruz on Aug. 7. Snowy Egrets were scarce in the Sacramento Valley before Aug. 7, but increased after that to a number twice as great as for American Egret (Evenden). Large numbers of Black-crowned Night Herons were seen by Evenden on Gray Lodge Refuge. He saw 450 to 500 on Oct. 13 and Nov. 9 and 1400 on Nov. 22. He saw 4 Blue-winged Teal on Aug. 2 at Mendota Pool, Fresno Co., and 3 European Widgeon on Nov. 9 at Gray Lodge Refuge. A big influx of Baldpates began in mid-October in the Sacramento Valley. Mrs. Kelly found 2 Wood Ducks on Nov. 8 in Golden Gate Park and 1 at Fine Arts Lagoon, San Francisco on Nov. 12. Mrs. Nielsen saw 3 on Nov. 21 in Halls Valley, east of San Jose. About 25 Am. Golden-eyes were on Lake Merritt on Dec. 3 (Kelly). Mrs. Kelly saw 6 female Hooded Mergansers, Nov. 16, on Phoenix Lake, Marin Co., and Evenden reported 83 on Nov. 29 at Camp Seco.

Hawks.—On Oct. 13, Evenden saw more than 250 Turkey Vultures circling over Lower Butte Sink, Sutter Co., and on Nov. 16 there were 45 circling near Butte City, Glenn Co.; Mrs. Nielsen on Nov. 6 saw 6 soaring between Niles and Hayward. White-tailed Kites were reported from the following localities: Orland (3) Nov. 16; Franklin, Sacramento Co., Sept. 27; Sonoma Creek, near Vallejo, Sept. 24 and Nov. 5; Moss Landing (4-5) September and October; mouth of Salinas River, September and November; mouth of Carmel River, Oct. 4 and 13; Mendota Pool, Fresno Co. A Goshawk was seen on Aug. 3 at Bass Lake, 3500 feet, Madera Co. (Evenden). Ferruginous Rough-legs were seen by Pray on Oct. 26 in Wooden Valley, Napa Co., and by Wool on Oct. 10 and later east of Milpitas. There were more records than usual for Golden Eagle, from Leesville, Colusa Co., south to Carmel. An Osprey was present on Oct. 16 at Stinson Beach (Pray). Pigeon Hawks were seen by Williams on Oct. 10 at mouth of Salinas River and by Evenden on Oct. 19 at Salt Springs Reservoir, Calaveras Co. Mrs. Nielsen on Nov. 29 counted 42 Sparrow Hawks along about 10 miles of road through the open hills of northern Santa Clara County.

Shorebirds.—Evenden saw 36 Sandhill Cranes on Nov. 22 at Gray Lodge Refuge and 100 in 3 flocks on Nov. 30 near Merced. The cranes had arrived at Los Banos Refuge by Oct. 30 (Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society). The Andersons found a Clapper Rail on Sept. 4 at Moss Landing. A Black Rail was captured on Sept. 21 halfway between Niles and Centerville (Pray). A Mountain Plover picked up dead on Dec. 5 on Airbase School Grounds, Salinas, evidently had struck a wire (Andersons). Miss E. Smith writes that last January A. Wool showed her one of these plovers among Killdeer in a field south of San Jose. Counts of Marbled Godwit made by Mrs. Kelly on Bay Farm Island show seasonal trends, as follows: Oct. 30 (500), Nov. 13 (500), 15 (400), 25 (300), and 30 (150). Wilson's Snipe were reported singly: first at Lower Butte Sink on Oct. 13, then at Gray Lodge Refuge, Nov. 9 (Evenden), at Bay Farm Island, Nov. 5 (Kelly), and a dead one beside a lake in Halls Valley, Santa Clara Co., Nov. 27 (Nielsen). Baird's Sandpiper was recorded at the mouth of the Carmel River, Aug. 20 (Williams), and Sept. 10 (Andersons). There are records of Pectoral Sandpiper from 3 localities: near Sonoma Creek, Evenden saw 7 on Sept. 27; vicinity of Dumbarton Bridge, found by Mrs. Nielsen on Aug. 16, and by Miss Smith on Sept. 24; mouth of Carmel River, Miss Morrow saw 3 from Sept. 28 to Oct. 5. Evenden found 45 Red-backed Sandpipers on Aug. 2 at Mendota Pool, Fresno Co. Apparently there was a large southward flight of Red Phalaropes just before mid-November. A live bird in a small pool beside the road and a dead one on the road were 30 miles southeast of Carmel on Nov. 10 (Linsdale).

The next day Williams saw 3 on Carmel Bay, and on the 14th he saw a flock fly south past Cypress Point.

Terns and Murrelets.—Evenden saw 3 Least Terns on Aug. 13 at Benicia. A Royal Tern was observed by Pray on Oct. 16 at Stinson Beach. An Ancient Murrelet on Nov. 3 was on Carmel Bay (Williams).

Non-passerine land birds.—In Los Gatos the Vaux's Swifts that nested in a chimney through May, June, and July numbered about 12 in August and dwindled to 3 that tried to roost there for the last time on Sept. 26 when the first fire was built in the chimney (Smith). About 100 Allen's Hummingbirds were seen on Aug. 3 on El Cerrito Hill (Pray). There was 1 in Piedmont as late as Sept. 29 (Mrs. Nelson).

Passerine birds.—Evenden saw a few Violet-green Swallows on Oct. 19 at Salt Springs Reservoir and 65 along with 8 Tree Swallows at Hogan Reservoir. The latest Barn Swallow was one seen by Pray on Oct. 16 at Stinson Beach. The latest Purple Martins were seen on Aug. 15 at Los Gatos (Smith). The latest House Wren was seen Nov. 27 at Smith Creek, Santa Clara Co. (Nielsen). The only varied Thrush reported was by Miss E. Smith on Dec. 1 near Los Gatos. No wintering Hermit Thrush was seen until Oct. 3, in Piedmont (Nelson). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported first on Sept. 28 in North Berkeley (Berry), and Carmel Highlands (Williams). Two Starlings were seen on Nov. 16 near Orland (Evenden). A late record for Hooded Oriole is of 1 reported by Mrs. Zwaal on Aug. 12 in San Jose. Evenden found a Bullock's Oriole on Aug. 2 at Mendota Pool. A Brown-headed Cowbird was still at Moss Landing on Sept. 24 (Andersons). At least 5 White-throated Sparrows were seen in North Berkeley between Sept. 25 and Nov. 24 (Pray). Another immature bird of this species was collected on Oct. 16 on the University Campus, Berkeley, by Childs. On Oct. 7, Williams saw the first Lincoln's Sparrow at Carmel.—JEAN M. LINSDALE, *Hastings Reservation, Jamesburg Route, Robles del Rio, Calif.*

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION.—The fall season was one of normal weather fluctuations. The early portion was characterized by extreme dryness and a number of damaging fires resulted. The latter half, however, was marked by much-needed rain. At the present time, the region is enjoying a very normal rainfall, with the current season total already exceeding last year's fall record, manyfold. Bird migration appeared to be quite normal, with no unusual fluctuations in numbers of individuals or changes in pattern.

Grebes.—Several hundred Horned Grebes were observed at Little Lake on Oct. 13, and 123 were counted on the effluent ponds at China Lake, Oct. 28 (Fish). A Horned Grebe was noted at Playa del Rey on Oct. 23 and again Nov. 6 by Mall. Eared Grebes increased at Playa del Rey from 20 on Oct. 9 to 69, Nov. 13 (Mall). Approximately 100 Eared Grebes were at Little Lake on Oct. 13 (Fish). An airplane survey made on Nov. 9 showed an estimated concentration of 20,000 Pied-billed Grebes on the Salton Sea (O'Neill).

Albatrosses through Wood Ibis.—Three Black-footed Albatrosses were noted inside the San Pedro Channel, Oct. 10; a single Fulmar, Aug. 27, and 15 on Oct. 15; 1 Pink-footed Shearwater on Aug. 27, and 5, Oct. 15; a few Sooty Shearwaters on Aug. 27 and "numerous," Oct. 15; all the above observations were made in the San Pedro Channel by Comby. A White Pelican was seen at Oceanside on Sept. 14 (Pyle) and 2 others at Playa del Rey, Oct. 23 (Mall). Two Wood Ibis were noted at Oceanside on Sept. 14 (Pyle and Stultz).

Waterfowl.—The best picture of waterfowl migration in this region naturally comes from the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, and emphasis will be given that area, with only noteworthy waterfowl records being given in the case of other areas. At the Salton Sea Refuge the first record of Canada Geese was obtained on Oct. 23, when 6 arrived. Nov. 6 showed 58 and the high count was made the last days of the period, when 60 were present. The first record of Snow Geese was a flight of 35 birds, Oct. 2. On Oct. 15, 14 were noted; 140, Oct. 30, and 350 by the last of the period. White-fronted Geese first appeared on Oct. 16 (2 birds) and by mid-November 350 birds were present. Two Cackling Geese were reported on Nov. 4. The greatest number of Mallards observed at the Refuge in several years was noted Sept. 1, when 3000 birds arrived. These thinned steadily to 20 birds by mid-November. Resident Cinnamon Teal were not numerous at any time and by the middle of November none were present. High count was on Sept. 23, when 200 were present. Ten Green-winged Teal arrived in mid-September, with an estimated 180 present in mid-October and 400 the first week of November. The first small flight of Pintails (40 birds) arrived on Aug. 10. By Sept. 1, 21,000 were present, the population consisting chiefly of juvenile birds. The number began dropping after mid-September to 10,000 birds by the end of the month, then to 5400 by mid-October. An upswing in number to 8060 occurred in late October

and on Nov. 15 some 9500 birds were present. Baldpates first arrived on Sept. 9 (150 birds) and continued to increase to 1500 on Oct. 31. The count on Nov. 15 showed 3600 birds present. Gadwalls arrived the last of October (400 birds) and approximately 200 birds remained through Nov. 15. A few Shovellers arrived on Sept. 1 and by Nov. 16 the number had jumped from 10 birds to 4000. The high count was on Oct. 2, when 4600 birds recorded. Thereafter the number remained very stable. A few Redheads, Canvas-backs and Lesser Scaup arrived during October and stayed out on the open waters of Salton Sea. Ruddy Ducks increased during the period from 30 birds to a peak of 300 on Oct. 30. On Salton Sea an estimated 8000 were present Nov. 15; Fulvous Tree Ducks numbered 240 in mid-August, with a high count of 300, Sept. 9. On Oct. 15 only 90 were recorded and the last record was 5, Nov. 6. On Sept. 10 a female with 3 young about 3 weeks of age was seen in the area. An airplane survey made on Nov. 9, showed about 100,000 ducks to be present in the Imperial Valley (O'Neill). Other noteworthy waterfowl observations are: a Harlequin Duck accompanying a flock of 80 Surf Scoters off Playa del Rey on Oct. 23 (Pyle); another Harlequin observed at Hyperion on Nov. 6 (Mall and Small); a lone male Wood Duck accompanying a flock of Mallards at Riverside, Nov. 19 (Wilson).

Rails and Shorebirds.—Four Clapper Rails (Light-footed) were observed at Playa del Rey on Oct. 9 and 3 at same locality on Nov. 6 (Mall). A Virginia Rail was reported from Little Lake, Oct. 13 (Fish), and a Sora from Malibu, Oct. 23 (Mall and Small). William Fish reported a noteworthy change in the habitat at China Lake. The establishment of the big naval rocket research station there several years ago is beginning to have a definite effect on the birdlife. Situated as it is in the desert, the China Lake area formerly had a typical desert type avifauna. With the establishment of the naval station and a community of some 11,000 inhabitants, the desert has been transformed into a green oasis with considerable tree growth. Many species, heretofore unknown in the area, have moved in and are now resident. One such arrival is the Killdeer. On Oct. 6 the Killdeer population had built up to at least 60 birds, whereas this species had not been noted in the valley during previous years (Fish).

Gulls and Terns.—An immature Franklin's Gull was observed at close range at Playa del Rey on Oct. 23 (Small). Interesting mixed flocks of terns were reported, the most unusual being: 75 Royal, 3 Caspian, 2 Black, 60 Forster's, and 1 Elegant, all flocked together on a small sand bar at Bolsa Chica, Sept. 7. At the same spot on Sept. 14 there were 60 Royal Terns, 40 Forster's, 2 Caspian, and 1 Elegant. On Oct. 9 the sand bar was deserted (Pyle and Stultz). On Sept. 3 at Playa del Rey, terns were reported as, "too numerous to make a good estimate." Species present included Forster's, Least, Royal and Caspian. Least Terns were observed feeding full-grown young (Shuart).

Non-passerine Land Birds.—A White-tailed Kite was observed near El Monte on Oct. 2 (Mall), and an Osprey noted at Bolsa Chica on Sept. 7 (Stultz and Pyle). A Prairie Falcon was seen daily at the San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary between Nov. 2 and 14 (Stultz). Three immature Bald Eagles were noted on Santa Catalina Island on Aug. 27 (Comby). A pair of Williamson's Sapsuckers was observed at Charlton Flats, Oct. 24 (Kent).

Passerine Birds.—Five Phainopeplas were noted in the town of Whittier on Sept. 25 (Rusterholz). Three Nashville Warblers were reported from a yard in the middle of Los Angeles, Aug. 21 (Russell). A male Am. Redstart appeared in the yard of a private residence at Monterey Park on Aug. 30 and remained there until Sept. 6 at which time it was found dead in the yard (Stager). Twenty Cardinals (from introduced stock), consisting of mostly immature birds, were observed congregating in an old apple orchard at the San Gabriel Wildlife Sanctuary on Sept. 17 (Stultz). The first Lincoln's Sparrow of the season was noted along the San Gabriel River on Nov. 10 (Comby).—KENNETH E. STAGER, *Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles 7, Calif.*

DEFINITE COMMON NAMES FOR SPECIES— AN EDITORIAL POLICY

John W. Aldrich

Audubon Field Notes has felt an increasing need for a uniform usage of definite common or vernacular names for different species of birds which may be used without reference to subspecies or to the scientific name. The coverage of the regional reports has increased until now the name of virtually every species of bird which regularly occurs in North America appears in the pages of *Audubon Field Notes* during the course of a year. Since contributors frequently refer to the species by the name of its subspecies which they think should represent it in their part of the country, the need for a standard listing of names to be used has become acute. The Committee on Classification and Nomenclature charged with the preparation of a revised edition of the American Ornithologists' Union's "Checklist of North American Birds" plans to include the species listing we need in the edition now in preparation. Unfortunately, however, there is no assurance that this new edition will be published in the near future.

To fill the gap prior to the appearance of the new A. O. U. Checklist, the editors of *Audubon Field Notes* deem it necessary to prepare a list of species' names for its own use. A year ago (Vol. 2, No. 6, p. 247) they presented a partial listing of species most likely to be included in the 1948 Christmas Bird Count and for which it was thought a definite species name was needed. This list which proved adequate for that purpose has now been expanded to be more inclusive and thus of wider usefulness to contributors to *Audubon Field Notes*. Most of the names selected will probably be used in the next edition of the A.O.U. Checklist, judging from preliminary listings which we have seen. In practically all cases they are names which have had common usage for the species in question either on this continent or abroad. The one primary consideration has been that each species should have a distinctive common name which may be used without reference to its subspecies and which would distinguish it from any other North American species. Thus the name Ferruginous Rough-leg (*Buteo regalis*) has been changed to Ferruginous Hawk, to distinguish it from the Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*); and the Flammulated Screech Owl (*Otus flammeolus*) and Spotted Screech Owl (*Otus trichopsis*) have been changed to Flammulated Owl and Mountain Owl, respectively, to distinguish them from the Screech Owl (*Otus asio*).

The most difficult cases to handle have been wide-ranging species which have been given different English names in North America from those used elsewhere. In most cases this involves merely different subspecific names for the North American representatives. Thus the Duck Hawk and Peale's Falcon of the A.O.U. Checklist are merely subspecies of the world-wide ranging Peregrine Falcon; and the Hudsonian Curlew is merely a subspecies of the circumpolar Whimbrel. It is not expected that international usage of common names for internationally ranging species can be achieved at once, or even in a few years, but we do think it would help in the popular understanding of bird distribution if this could be achieved. For the time being a compromise in the acceptance of Old World names is thought desirable to avoid confusing the American bird-watchers with too many strange names all at once even though it has meant the use of the American subspecies name for a wide-ranging species like the American Egret. Courageous action on the part of the A.O.U. Checklist compilers and authors of other standard English-language bird books in both hemispheres could bring world-wide uniformity in bird names within a generation which would be a great boon to international understanding among bird-watchers. Published accounts of European birds, for example, would be much more interesting and intelligible to American birders if they realized that the tree-creeper alluded to was nothing but their own familiar Brown Creeper under a different name; or that the Willow-Tit was nothing more nor less than the Black-capped Chickadee of their own feeding stations.

Until such time as more appropriate names come into common usage, for the sake of uniformity the following nomenclature is to be followed in *Audubon Field Notes*, and all field observers, census-takers and regional editors are requested to use these names in their reports until further notice. In most cases it will be unnecessary to use the subspecific name at all, but when this is found necessary it should be added in parentheses after the species names, thus: Oregon Junco (Pink-sided); or Canada Goose (Lesser). Although not wishing to minimize the importance of the subspecies unit in the study of speciation and ecological distribution of birds, the editors are convinced that such studies cannot be intelligently pursued except by the use of museum specimens, critically identified by direct compari-

son with other specimens, and that their use in field studies, such as those reported on in *Audubon Field Notes*, in most cases would prove to be definitely misleading.

Names selected for inclusion in the list are only those for which no obviously inclusive species name is provided in the 1931 A.O.U. Check-list. In the case of wide-ranging species which are represented in North America by only one subspecies like the Am. Egret, Am. Goldeneye, and Marsh Hawk, it is proposed in general to use the subspecies name as it appears in the 1931 A.O.U. Checklist and, therefore, such birds are not listed here. Common names are followed by scientific names, and in some cases (in parentheses) old names or well-known subspecific names to identify them.

COMMON NAMES FOR SOME SPECIES OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

Common Loon—*Gavia immer*
Arctic Loon—(Pacific) *Gavia arctica*
Red-necked Grebe—(Holboell's) *Colymbus grisegena*
Least Grebe—(Mexican) *Colymbus dominicus*
Dusky Shearwater—(Audubon's) *Puffinus lherminieri*
Leach's Petrel—*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*
Double-crested Cormorant—*Phalacrocorax auritus*
Olivaceus Cormorant—(Mexican) *Phalacrocorax olivaceus*
Pelagic Cormorant—*Phalacrocorax pelagicus*
Anhinga—*Anhinga anhinga*
Magnificent Frigate-bird—*Fregata magnificens*
Great Blue Heron—*Ardea herodias*
Snowy Egret—*Leucophoyx thula*
Glossy Ibis—*Plegadis falcinellus*
White-faced Ibis—(White-faced Glossy) *Plegadis mexicana*
Canada Goose—*Branta canadensis*
White-fronted Goose—*Anser albifrons*
Mexican Duck—(New Mexican) *Anas diazi*
Mottled Duck—*Anas fulvigula*
Am. Widgeon—(Baldpate) *Mareca americana*
Greater Scaup—*Aythya marila*
Lesser Scaup—*Aythya affinis*
Common Eider—(American) *Somateria mollissima*
Red-tailed Hawk—*Buteo jamaicensis*
Harlan's Hawk—*Buteo harlani*
Red-shouldered Hawk—*Buteo lineatus*
Rough-legged Hawk—*Buteo lagopus*
Ferruginous Hawk—(Ferruginous Rough-leg) *Buteo regalis*
Peregrine Falcon—(Duck Hawk) *Falco peregrinus*
Blue Grouse—(Dusky) *Dendragapus obscurus*
Willow Ptarmigan—*Lagopus lagopus*
Rock Ptarmigan—*Lagopus mutus*
Greater Prairie Chicken—*Tympanuchus cupido*
Lesser Prairie Chicken—*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*
California Quail—*Lophortyx californica*
Gambel's Quail—*Lophortyx gambeli*
Mountain Quail—*Oreortyx picta*
Rock Partridge—(Chukar) *Alectoris graeca*
Sandhill Crane—*Grus canadensis*
Clapper Rail—*Rallus longirostris*
Am. Coot—*Fulica americana*
Am. Oyster-catcher—*Haematopus palliatus*
Ringed Plover—(Semipalmated) *Charadrius hiaticula*
Am. Golden Plover—*Pluvialis dominica*
Ruddy Turnstone—*Arenaria interpres*
Am. Woodcock—*Philohela minor*
Long-billed Curlew—*Numenius americanus*
Bartramian Sandpiper—(Upland Plover) *Bartramia longicauda*
Red Knot—(American) *Calidris canutus*
Rock Sandpiper—(Aleutian) *Erolia ptilocnemis*
Am. Avocet—*Recurvirostra americana*
Western Gull—*Larus occidentalis*
Herring Gull—*Larus argentatus*
Black-legged Kittiwake—(Atlantic) *Rissa tridactyla*
Red-legged Kittiwake—*Rissa brevirostris*
Common Murre—(California) *Uria aalge*
Black Guillemot—*Cepphus grylle*
Atlantic Puffin—*Fratercula arctica*
Spotted Dove—(Chinese) *Streptopelia chinensis*
Mangrove Cuckoo—(Maynard's) *Coccyzus minor*
Yellow-billed Cuckoo—(California) *Coccyzus americanus*
Groove-billed Ani—*Crotophaga sulcirostris*
Screech Owl—*Otus asio*
Flammulated Owl—(Flammulated Screech) *Otus flammeolus*
Mountain Owl—(Spotted Screech) *Otus trichopsis*
Pygmy Owl—*Glaucidium gnoma*
Ferruginous Owl—(Ferruginous Pygmy) *Glaucidium brasilianum*
Common Nighthawk—(Eastern) *Chordeiles minor*
Lesser Nighthawk—(Texas) *Chordeiles acutipennis*

Green Kingfisher—(Texas) *Chloroceryle americana*
Yellow-shafted Flicker—(Northern) *Colaptes auratus*
Red-shafted Flicker — (Northwestern) *Colaptes cafer*
Gila Woodpecker—*Centurus uropygialis*
Acorn Woodpecker—(California) *Balanosphyra formicivora*
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker — (Red-breasted) *Sphyrapicus varius*
Hairy Woodpecker—*Dendrocopos villosus*
Downy Woodpecker—*Dendrocopos pubescens*
Ladder-backed Woodpecker—(Cactus) *Dendrocopos scalaris*
Arctic Woodpecker—(Arctic Three-toed) *Picoides arcticus*
Three-toed Woodpecker—*Picoides tridactylus*
Rose-throated Becard—(Xantus') *Platypsaris aglaiae*
Tropical Kingbird—(Couch's) *Tyrannus melancholicus*
Western Kingbird—(Arkansas) *Tyrannus verticalis*
Eastern Phoebe—*Sayornis phoebe*
Black Phoebe—*Sayornis nigricans*
Say's Phoebe—*Sayornis saya*
Traill's Flycatcher—(Alder) *Empidonax traillii*
Western Flycatcher—*Empidonax difficilis*
Eastern Wood Pewee—*Contopus virens*
Western Wood Pewee—*Contopus richardsonii*
Gray Jay—(Canada) *Perisoreus canadensis*
Steller's Jay—*Cyanocitta stelleri*
Scrub Jay—(California) *Aphelocoma coerulescens*
Arizona Jay—*Aphelocoma ultramarina*
Common Raven—(American) *Corvus corax*
Am. Crow—*Corvus brachyrhynchos*
Northwestern Crow—*Corvus caurinus*
Fish Crow—*Corvus ossifragus*
Black-capped Chickadee—*Parus atricapillus*
Carolina Chickadee—*Parus carolinensis*
Mountain Chickadee—*Parus gambeli*
Gray-headed Chickadee—(Alaska) *Parus cinctus*
Brown-capped Chickadee—(Hudsonian) *Parus hudsonicus*
Chestnut-backed Chickadee—*Parus rufescens*
Black-crested Titmouse—*Parus atricristatus*
Plain Titmouse—*Parus inornatus*
Bushtit—*Psaltriparus minimus*
Black-eared Tit—(Lloyd's Bushtit) *Psaltriparus melanotis*
White-breasted Nuthatch—*Sitta carolinensis*
Brown-headed Nuthatch—*Sitta pusilla*
Pygmy Nuthatch—*Sitta pygmaea*
Brown Creeper—*Certhia familiaris*
Am. Dipper—*Cinclus mexicanus*
Winter Wren—*Troglodytes troglodytes*
Bewick's Wren—*Thryomanes bewickii*
Carolina Wren—*Thryothorus ludovicianus*
Long-billed Marsh Wren—*Telmatodytes palustris*
Canyon Wren—*Catherpes mexicanus*
Long-billed Thrasher—*Toxostoma longirostre*
Gray Thrasher—(San Lucas) *Toxostoma cinereum*
Curve-billed Thrasher—*Toxostoma curvirostre*
California Thrasher—*Toxostoma redivivum*
Leconte's Thrasher—*Toxostoma lecontei*
Crissal Thrasher—*Toxostoma dorsale*
Olive-backed Thrush—(Russet-backed) *Hylocichla ustulata*
Gray-cheeked Thrush—*Hylocichla minima*
Veery—(Willow Thrush) *Hylocichla fuscescens*
Eastern Bluebird—*Sialia sialis*
Western Bluebird—*Sialia mexicana*
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—*Polioptila caerulea*
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher—*Polioptila melanura*
Ruby-crowned Kinglet—*Regulus calendula*
Water Pipit—(American) *Anthus spinoletta*
Great Shrike—(Northern) *Lanius excubitor*
Loggerhead Shrike—*Lanius ludovicianus*
Common Starling—*Sturnus vulgaris*
White-eyed Vireo—*Vireo griseus*
Hutton's Vireo—*Vireo huttoni*
Bell's Vireo—*Vireo bellii*
Solitary Vireo (Blue-headed)—*Vireo solitarius*
Orange-crowned Warbler—*Vermivora celata*
Nashville Warbler—(Calaveras) *Vermivora ruficapilla*
Black-throated Blue Warbler—*Dendroica caerulescens*
Audubon's Warbler—*Dendroica auduboni*
Black-throated Green Warbler—*Dendroica virens*
Yellow-throated Warbler—(Sycamore) *Dendroica dominica*
Northern Waterthrush—(Grinnell's) *Seiurus noveboracensis*
Common Yellowthroat — (Maryland) *Geothlypis trichas*
Peninsula Yellowthroat—*Geothlypis beldingi*
Ground Chat (Rio Grande Yellowthroat)—*Chamaethlypis poliocephala*
Yellow-breasted Chat—*Icteria virens*
Pileolated Warbler—(Wilson's) *Wilsonia pusilla*
House Sparrow—*Passer domesticus*
European Tree Sparrow—*Passer montanus*
Eastern Meadowlark—*Sturnella magna*
Western Meadowlark—*Sturnella neglecta*
Red-winged Blackbird—*Agelaius phoeniceus*
Tricolored Blackbird—(Tricolored Redwing) *Agelaius tricolor*
Hooded Oriole—*Icterus cucullatus*
Boat-tailed Grackle—*Cassidix mexicanus*
Purple Grackle—(Bronzed) *Quiscalus quiscula*
Brown-headed Cowbird—*Molothrus ater*
Bronzed Cowbird—*Tangavius aeneus*
Summer Tanager—*Piranga rubra*
Black-headed Grosbeak—*Pheucticus melanocephalus*
Varied Bunting—*Passerina versicolor*
Purple Finch—*Carpodacus purpureus*
Cassin's Finch—(Cassin's Purple) *Carpodacus cassinii*
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch—*Leucosticte tephrocotis*
Hoary Redpoll—*Acanthis hornemanni*
Common Redpoll—*Acanthis flammea*

Am. Goldfinch—*Spinus tristis*
Lesser Goldfinch—(Arkansas) *Spinus psaltria*
Red Crossbill—*Loxia curvirostra*
Eastern Towhee—*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*
Spotted Towhee—*Pipilo maculatus*
Brown Towhee—*Pipilo fuscus*
Savannah Sparrow—*Passerculus sandwichensis*
Sharp-tailed Sparrow—(Nelson's) *Ammospiza caudacuta*
Seaside Sparrow—*Ammospiza maritima*
Dusky Sparrow—(Dusky Seaside) *Ammospiza nigrescens*
Cape Sable Sparrow—(Cape Sable Seaside) *Ammospiza mirabilis*
Rufous-crowned Sparrow—*Aimophila ruficeps*
Bachman's Sparrow—*Aimophila aestivalis*
Desert Sparrow—*Amphispiza bilineata*
Sage Sparrow—*Amphispiza belli*
Slate-colored Junco—*Junco hyemalis*
Oregon Junco—(Pink-sided) *Junco oreganus*
Gray-headed Junco—*Junco caniceps*
Am. Tree Sparrow—*Spizella arborea*
Brewer's Sparrow—*Spizella breweri*
White-crowned Sparrow—(Gambel's) *Zonotrichia leucophrys*
Lincoln's Sparrow—*Melospiza lincolnii*
Lapland Longspur—*Calcarius lapponicus*

Fiftieth Anniversary Issue

of the Christmas Bird Count—April 1950 number of "Audubon Field Notes." Separate copies may be obtained by sending in $1.00 to 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, well in advance of publication date.

STYLE CHANGE

Hereafter, in the interests of uniformity with other American bird journals all specific names of birds, mammals and plants will be capitalized in the pages of "Audubon Field Notes."

DISTRIBUTION OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

Winter Distribution of the Sora

Chandler S. Robbins

The accompanying map is the fourth in a series of preliminary maps showing the distribution of North American rails. As in the past, the only records used were those made during the month of January in the South and from December 25 through February 7 in states north of California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, the Ohio River, Maryland, and Delaware. As a consequence of strict adherence to these mid-winter dates, many records from Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies, where the Sora is said to winter commonly, have not been shown—nor have the southernmost occurrences of this species in Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, and British Guiana. On the other hand, migrating birds have been nearly or completely eliminated. The earliest record of a migrating Sora is a bird which struck a lightship off Port Eads, La., on February 11, 1904. The wide but spotty distribution of winter records of this species should be a challenge to *Audubon Field Notes* readers to make a special effort to find this rail in mid-winter in localities where it has not yet been recorded.

Preliminary Map Showing the Winter distribution of the Sora by Chandler S. Robbins